Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Should the CNMI set up its own islandwide tsunami warning system?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Pentagon Attack

A gunman opens fire at the teeming subway entrance to the Pentagon complex.

NATION...Page 10

Trapped in Ice

A passenger ferry with nearly 1,000 people on board breaks free from ice in the Baltic Sea.

WORLD...Page 11

Last Fight

Manny Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, delivers knee-buckling assessment about his ward's future.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown speaks to alien workers during a forum held Thursday evening at the amphitheater of the American Memorial Park.

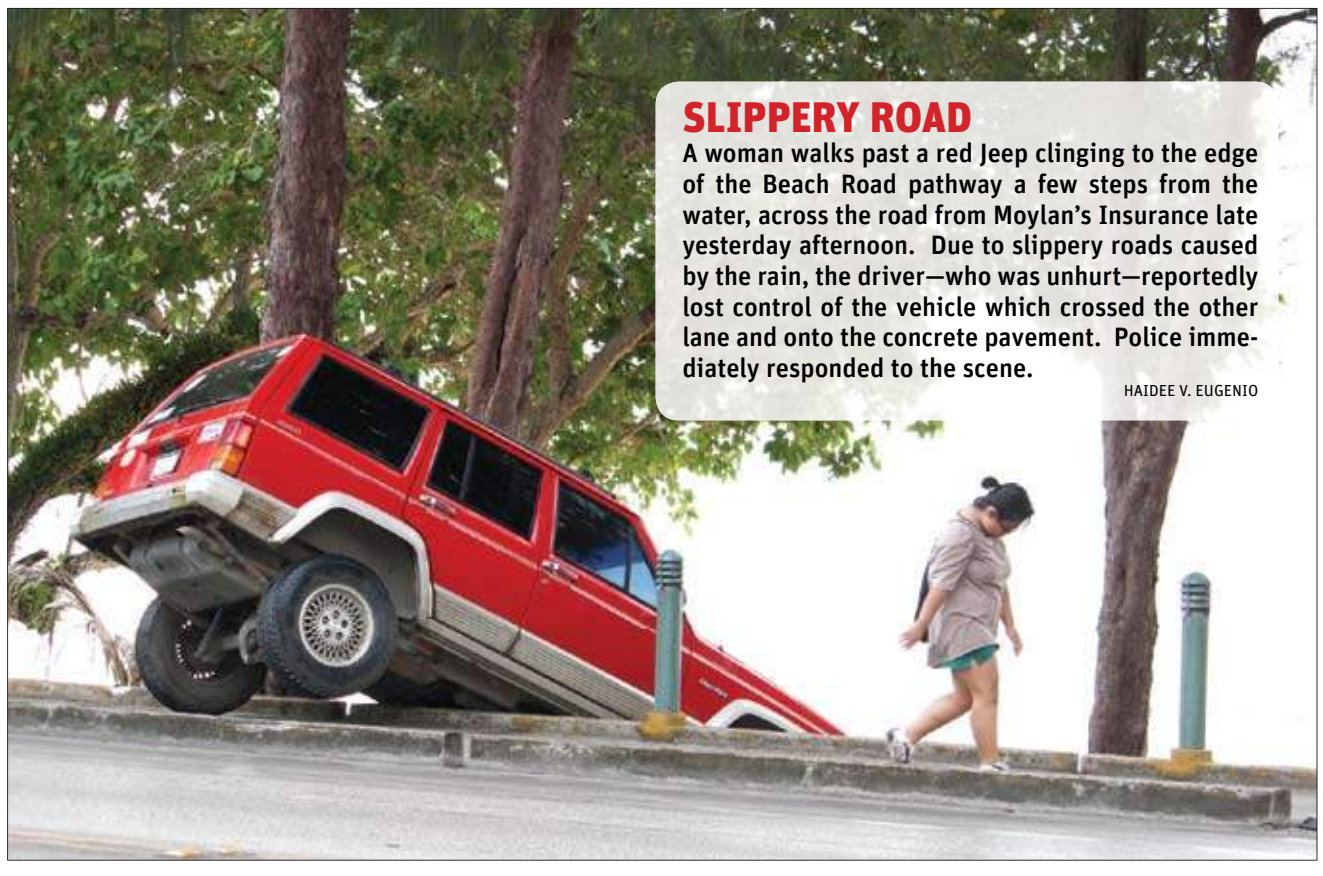
ITOS FELICIANO

Brown: Labor lost authority to revoke umbrella permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor lost the authority to revoke umbrella permits issued to alien workers and those with immediate relative status on Nov. 28, 2009, when the federalization law took effect, according to Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown.

See LABOR on Page 4



SLIPPERY ROAD

A woman walks past a red Jeep clinging to the edge of the Beach Road pathway a few steps from the water, across the road from Moylan's Insurance late yesterday afternoon. Due to slippery roads caused by the rain, the driver—who was unhurt—reportedly lost control of the vehicle which crossed the other lane and onto the concrete pavement. Police immediately responded to the scene.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Camacho seeks delegate seat under Covenant Party

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Camacho

Former House Floor Leader and now private attorney Joseph James N. Camacho submitted a letter of intent to run for the CNMI delegate seat in the U.S. Congress under the Covenant Party in the Nov. 2, 2010, federal elections.

Covenant Party chair Gregorio "Ka-

See CAMACHO on Page 4

State funeral for former Lt. Gov. Francisco Ada

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's first lieutenant governor, Francisco Castro Ada, will have a state funeral on Wednesday morning, the Office of the Governor and his family said yesterday.

"I think it's fitting for what my father contributed to the government of the Northern Marianas and Micronesia," his son, Frank C. Ada Jr., told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

See FUNERAL on Page 4

Suspect in fatal assault falls

» Police learn love triangle was motive in the attack

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Police have arrested the suspect in the attack on a jobless man who had died after lingering in a coma for three days after being assaulted near Kagman High School on Monday.

Police served the arrest warrant on Shane Jonathan Hocog in Kagman shortly before midnight Thursday on charges of voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

In issuing the arrest warrant, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman

See SUSPECT on Page 4

Man loses finger in violence at birthday party. PAGE 2

119 ask to vote in various municipalities; 3 absentee voters. **PAGE 3**

Local

Man loses finger in violence at birthday party

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman's birthday party turned bloody after his left middle finger was sliced off in a fight with his drunk brother at a restaurant in Chalan Lau Lau on Wednesday morning.

The victim, Ming Hao Li, owner of Tai Yang Restaurant, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

The suspect, Ying Xiu Wen, 41, was arrested for disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

A $10,000 cash bail was imposed for Wen's temporary release. He was taken before Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo yesterday afternoon for bail hearing.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that the fight happened inside Tai Yang Restaurant during Li's birthday party.

Manacop said that, according to witnesses, Li and suspect Wen were drinking alcohol with two women at 4am.

As Wen and Li argued, Wen ran into the kitchen and grabbed a knife.

As they tried to calm down Wen, he pushed one of the women then struggled with Li. During the struggle, one of Li's fingers was completely cut off.

Wen then fled. Later, however, his van got into an accident. He ran to the IMF/Sashimi House in Chalan Kanoa, where he works.

A responding police officer proceeded to Sashimi House where Wen was arrested. He had a large laceration on the head.

Li told police that during the party Wen got drunk and cracked a bottle on his head. Li asked what was his problem, but Wen ran to the kitchen and grabbed a knife.

ENERGY CONFERENCE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Three U.S. territorial governors joined the governor of Colorado this week to attend the start of a two-day conference focused on the establishment of renewable energy solutions for U.S. Territories in the Pacific, at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. From left, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas Anthony M. Babauta; Gov. Togiola Tulafono (American Samoa), Gov. Felix Camacho (Guam), Gov. Benigno Fitial (CNMI); Steve Lindenberg, senior adviser, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

Igisomar re-elected chair of Retirement Fund board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the NMI Retirement Fund's board of trustees have re-elected Sixto K. Igisomar to the chairmanship for another year.

The board adopted Igisomar's appointment by acclamation during the election of officers yesterday.

Voted as the board's first vice chairman was trustee Jerry P. Crisostimo while Pedro Dela Cruz will serve as this year's second vice chairperson.

Igisomar expressed appreciation for the members' continued trust in his capability as board chairman. He vowed to perform his duties as trustee to the best of his abilities, emphasizing that he accepts criticisms and will take corrective actions if needed.

Igisomar has been on the board since 1998. He assumed the chairmanship late last year when Juan T. Guerrero stepped down from the post.

Besides the Fund, Igisomar also served the Commonwealth Development Authority and Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s board of directors for four years, where he was also the CDA chairman for a year.

In February 2009, Igisomar was named deputy secretary of the Commerce Department, where he continues to serve. Prior to this appointment, he worked for nine years as commercial insurer underwriter in the private sector.

Igisomar cited some important goals for the board under his renewed leadership.

"The Fund will always look out for the best approach to provide growth to investments and security to all retirees' and members' pension," he said. As of Dec. 31, 2009, Fund's investment totaled $335 million.

The board also intends to close out lawsuits and negotiations with the government and clear out all pending cases. The central government owes the Fund $280 million as of December last year.

Other goals, he said, include improving Fund transparency and communication with all active and retired members; improve Fund operation and efficiency; and continue to evaluate better coverage and protection for all members with respect to life and death.

Other board members are Bernadita C. Palacios, Adelina C. Roberto, Francisco P. Rosario, and Marian DLG. Tudela.

'Technicalities' prevent Fund from backing CRA member on the board

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's trustees said "technicalities" prevent them from supporting the legislation that seeks to install a member of a retirees' association on the board.

Board chair Sixto K. Igisomar told retirees in a meeting at the Susupe Multi-Purpose Center yesterday that this is the only reason that's preventing them from backing the proposal.

A bill that seeks to boost the number of trustees on the Fund board to eight and adds a voting representative from the Commonwealth Retirees Association was vetoed by the governor last month.

CRA officials and members vowed yesterday to push for the same measure, saying this will ensure that retirees will be part of the decision-making on the Fund's investments and operation.

"The Retirement Fund supports the intent of the bill…but there are significant technical defects in the measure that prohibits the Fund from fully supporting as proposed," Igisomar told retirees.

A section of the legislation would add a new voting member on the board but the Fund pointed out that during the transition period between when the member is added and until such time as there is a vacancy in one of the seats not reserved for Rota and Tinian, the board would be comprised of eight members.

The trustees believe a board with eight voting members could easily reach a stalemate on any issue requiring a vote and the proposed measure provides no mechanism for resolving this possibility.

For Fund officials, the defect could be addressed by suspending the new member's voting rights until such time she/he fills a voting seat or by devising another method for resolving a tie vote.

Another technical issue was a provision that suspend the requirements that the board be represented by at least one female and one Refaluwash descent.

The board of trustees believes that minimizing representation of these two classes of people should be given serious consideration since the issues facing them and their cultural differences are important.

If a measure is approved with the same provisions, Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said this may cause a "deadlocked board."

Board transparency

Key officers of the retirees association present in yesterday's meeting urged the board to disclose to retirees all important information that need to be disseminated.

CRA board director David Sablan cited the lack of information going out to retirees, which is why the group is pushing for a voting representative on the full board.

"The reason why we ask this…is because it appears there's a lack of information that goes out to retirees. I thought that the best way to disseminate the information of the doings of the trustees and the Fund is to have one of us [elected by CRA membership] sit in the board to become our information person," Sablan explained.

Sablan, a former chairman of the Marianas Visitors Authority, compared the composition of the agency's board to that of the Fund trustees.

In the MVA board, five are appointed by the governor while four members are elected by majority members of various sectors.

For the many years that retirees have not been represented on the board, Sablan said, some retirees have taken it upon themselves to attend meetings and share information with their fellow retirees.

For his part, chairman Igisomar stated that the board and the Fund management practice "transparency" in all operations and dealings except for legal matters that need to be protected under the law.

"We are not hiding anything from anybody. Everything in the Fund is public record and we are transparent. Just come to us and ask the right questions and we are here to give you the answers," Igisomar said, adding that the trustees listen to the concerns of retirees and are doing their fiduciary duty to protect the Fund.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Saipan International Airport TSA Office/Restroom Renovations
Project No. CPA-SA-001-10

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for renovations of office space and a restroom and other improvements at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport which will be occupied by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

An electronic copy of the proposal package including plans and specifications is available at the office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport on **Monday, March 8, 2010**. The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal in itemized scope of work format (see proposal form in specifications);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for TSA Office/Restroom Renovations, Project Number CPA-SA-001-10"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **Friday, March 19, 2010, 4:30 p.m.,** to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, at the Saipan International Airport.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at *9:00 a.m. on Monday, March 15, 2010* at the CPA Airport Conference Room. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be permitted to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Project is being financed partially by funds from the Transportation Security Administration and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax. Contractor must also take into consideration anticipated minimum wage increases. CPA will not consider unjustifiable cost escalations due to unforeseen circumstances once contract is executed.

Proposers shall also include performance and payment bonds premium (payment and performance issued by a U.S. treasury listed bonding company or CPA approved surety) which are required for this project. Performance bond shall be extended to cover the one-year warranty period upon project acceptance. Contractors must also adhere to the insurance requirements included in the proposal package.

Contractor will be responsible for acquiring all necessary permits and permitting documents for project.

Proposers shall also submit with proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project.

The contract period for the project will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00) shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than March 12, 2010.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: March 4, 2010

FOR NORTHERN ISLANDS SPECIAL ELECTION

119 ask to vote in various municipalities; 3 absentee voters

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A total of 119 voters have asked the Commonwealth Election Commission that they be allowed to cast their ballots in various municipalities for the Northern Islands special election this month. Only three voters, meantime, have asked for absentee ballots since the deadline last week.

CEC executive director Robert Guerrero said yesterday that they have yet to determine if there are still voters in the Northern Islands itself who would participate in the election on March 27.

A total of 131 people are expected to participate in the special poll. The number dropped slightly after 18 were disqualified from last year's list of 149 registered voters.

Guerrero said the commission has no idea about the remaining nine voters. "We don't know yet about the remaining nine registered voters," he said.

He is not discounting the possibility that a few voters are still residing in the Northern Islands but said that CEC will fly to the islands if there's a need to conduct the election there.

It was earlier learned that the agency spent $11,495.90 last year each time it hired a helicopter to the islands.

An estimated $20,000 will be spent to conduct the entire special election process, including the printing of 160 ballots.

The election commission has certified two candidates for the special poll: Covenant Party's Ramona Rebuenog and independent candidate Tobias Aldan. The two were the same candidates in the general election last year.

Rebuenog had sued the commission and Aldan, claiming she is the rightful mayor of the Northern Islands. When the case was presented in court, Rebuenog was awarded the position.

Aldan, however, appealed to the Supreme Court which overturned the trial court ruling and ordered the commission to conduct a new mayoralty race for the island. The governor set the special election for March 27.

The commission's customer service area on Capital Hill has been designated as the official polling place for the election and the commission waived the $250 filing fee for the two candidates.

In the official ballot, Aldan got the left side of the one-page ballot while Rebuenog's name will appear on the right side. Whoever wins will serve a new term of five years, from the previous four-year term.

MAGAZINE COVERAGE
Beach Volleyball Style Magazine photographer Kazuaki Matsunaga checks out the Garapan Street Market on Feb. 25, 2010, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Matsunaga was on island to cover the 18th Marianas Cup Beach Volleyball held at Pacific Islands Club Saipan.
MVA

PIC greets Russian ladies with fresh roses

As a leading hotel catering to the Russian market on Saipan, Pacific Islands Club has organized and developed several events to treat its Russian guests with special care. In January, PIC hosted two spectacular parties to celebrate the Russian Orthodox Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Elly Stoilova, PIC's Russian Market manager, carefully follows all major Russian holidays not only to plan future hotel promotions but also to ensure that guests are properly greeted. Whether it is a guest birthday, an anniversary or a national holiday, PIC presents at minimum, an appropriate greeting card for each Russian family staying at PIC.

Come this March 8, European countries celebrate International Women's Day. Russia goes further and celebrates this holiday as a substitute for Mother's Day and targets all women and not just women with children. It is their choice to take a free day or go to work and be pampered with flowers and chocolates by husbands, brothers, fathers and male coworkers.

On this important holiday, PIC will surprise over 40 Russian ladies staying at the hotel with fresh red roses, a free cocktail at Buoy Bar and a greeting card. Girls are not forgotten as they will receive a special PIC white teddy-bear plush gift.

On Monday, do not forget to extend the Hafa Adai spirit and greet all Russian women with a friendly "Sprazdnikom!," which means, "happy holiday!" ***(PR)***

Three months added to ex-KPMG partner's prison time

NEW YORK (Reuters)—A former KPMG tax partner, imprisoned on a conviction for creating illegal tax shelters, will serve an additional three months for his role in a separate conspiracy to defraud U.S. and Saipan tax authorities.

U.S. District Judge Richard Berman on Wednesday sentenced Robert Pfaff, who pleaded guilty in September last year to the charges, which involved a fraud of a Saipan company, United Micronesia Development Association.

Berman said 54 months of the 57-month sentence he imposed in the Saipan case would run concurrently with a sentence of eight years and one month imposed last April by another judge, Lewis Kaplan, in a larger prosecution of former KPMG executives and an attorney.

Kaplan fined Pfaff $3 million and Berman ordered Pfaff to pay $1.05 million in restitution for the fraud, which prosecutors said took place between 1993 and 2002.

Berman said in court on Wednesday that it was appropriate that part of the sentence be consecutive "in light of the length and severity of the criminal activity in this case."

U.S. prosecutors accused Pfaff, 59, of taking more than $3.75 million in fees from tax shelter transactions and using the money to enrich himself and his family, including the purchase of luxury cars, buying homes and establishing trusts for his children.

Last November, the UMDA announced a $2.8 million settlement with Pfaff in a civil lawsuit for damages by Pfaff and other former company insiders over a 10-year period that ended in 2002.

Saipan, the site of a bloody battle between the United States and Japan in World War Two, is the largest island of the the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific.

The cases are USA v Pfaff, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, No. 08-00239 and USA v Stein et al 05-00888.

Senate has new legislative assistant

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes has announced the recent hiring of Betsy Ann Cruz as legislative assistant assigned to the Senate.

Reyes said Cruz joins Senate legislative assistant Eric Lister.

Cruz is a graduate of San Diego State University with a bachelor's degree in Applied Arts and Sciences, Criminal Justice and Administration. She is a pending graduate of Seattle University for a Master of Arts degree in Criminal Justice Administration with specialization in investigative criminology and victimology.

"With an area of expertise in investigative criminology and victimology, Ms. Cruz's experience includes performing in-depth research and analysis with strong writing, analytical and problem-solving skills. She possesses valuable skills that will be an asset to individual members of the Senate, the Legislature as a whole, and to the Legislative Bureau," Reyes said in a March 1 memo to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and other senators.

Cruz has been assigned to the Senate Standing Committees on Fiscal Affairs; Health and Welfare Programs; Judiciary, Government and Law; Resources, Economic Development and Programs; and Youth Affairs.

Lister, meanwhile, is assigned to the Senate Standing Committees on Education; Executive Appointments and Government Investigation; Federal Relations and Independent Agencies; Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications; and Rules and Procedures.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Monday, March 8, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (February 12, 2010)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Grazing Permits
2. Life and Health Insurance
3. Worldwide Salvage Lease Agreement
4. Marianas Shipyard
5. Recommendation of Personnel Committee (Comptroller position)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

March 5, 2010

Alana'ia Polynesian Music & Dance Productions
By: Ed and Melia Johnson
- **Keiki Hula class (ages 5-11)**
  Mondays and Thursdays
  3:00pm-3:45pm
  $40.00 monthly
- **Kaikamahine Hula class (12 and up)**
  Mondays and Thursdays
  4:00 pm-4:45pm
  $40.00 monthly
- **Basic Tahitian (12 and up)**
  Saturdays
  12:00pm-12:45pm
  $5.00 per class

To register please
email alanaia.polynesian.ent@gmail.com,
or call 285-6353 between the hours of 5pm and 8pm.

LABOR

From Page 1

"Employment of aliens is now a matter of federal law," Brown told over a thousand alien workers, IRs, and their children who attended a public forum at the American Memorial Park's amphitheater Thursday night.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, Brown said the alien workers were mostly concerned about their particular situations and the need to continue to go to Labor.

"Any alien who holds an umbrella permit recognized under federal law, P.L. 110-229, is authorized to work until its expiration date, which for all umbrella permits is Nov. 27, 2011," she said.

The ombudsman said she was very encouraged by the large turnout in Thursday's forum and honored that her office has such a strong reputation in both the private and public sector and among workers and employers.

Brown underscored the importance of holding such forums to clear up confusions.

"It [confusion] is not good for the economy, not good for the employers, and not good for aliens," she said.

Umbrella permits

She noted that most of the questions raised during the forum were mostly about the umbrella permit—whether it can be revoked and how long it's good for.

"People are very confused about the two dates," Brown said.

Brown clarified that holders of umbrella permits authorizing employment may work until Nov. 27, 2011, even though the permit may contain two dates.

Umbrella permits contain a date with the legend "next filing date to avoid revocation." Brown stressed, however, that umbrella permits are valid until Nov. 27, 2011, the maximum period of time permitted by federal law, and cannot be extended.

"An employee will need another work authorization under federal law to continue to work after that date," she said.

The ombudsman noted that even if CNMI authorities revoke a holder's umbrella permit, the holder remains authorized to work under federal law until Nov. 27, 2011.

More changes

Citing a provision of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (federalization law), Brown said an alien who was lawfully present in the CNMI under CNMI law on Nov. 28, 2009, cannot be removed solely on the basis of being present in the U.S. without inspection until the expiration of the status formerly granted by the CNMI or Nov. 27, 2011, whichever is sooner.

"If you are a student, you may be employed but you must remain in school. If you have an investment or business permit, you must continue the investment or business activity that was the basis for the permit," she said.

Brown said workers do not need to present their umbrella permit with photograph to continue working for their current employer if they began employment before Nov. 28, 2009.

"However, if you change employers, your umbrella permit must contain a photograph if you use that document for Form I-9 CNMI purposes," she said.

The Department of Homeland Security, Brown said, cannot issue or amend umbrella permits.

She said workers do not need to present their passport and umbrella permit to continue working for their current employer.

"However, if you change employers, you will need to present an unexpired foreign passport along with your umbrella permit if you use that document for Form 1-9 CNMI purposes," she said.

Deportation

Brown said an employer or the CNMI government cannot remove or deport an alien from the Commonwealth. Only DHS may lawfully remove an alien from the U.S., including the CNMI, she said.

"If you are not in DHS custody, you may voluntarily choose to leave the CNMI, and your employer may be contractually obligated to pay the cost," she said.

With respect to employers, Brown said they do not need the approval of Labor to hire a holder of an umbrella permit for new employment.

She said federal law does not require employers to seek Labor's approval to hire an alien with an umbrella permit for new employment in the CNMI.

"Your new employee must fully complete section 1 of the Form 1-9 CNMI no later than the date he or she begins work, and you [the employer] must examine the employee's documentation and complete section 2 of the Form 1-9 within three business days after the date of the employee begins work," she said.

SUSPECT

From Page 1

imposed no bail for the 22-year-old Hocog.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo reduced the "no bail" to $100,000 cash plus many other conditions.

Govendo set the preliminary hearing for March 15 at 9am and the arraignment for March 22 at 9am.

The judge appointed the Public Defender's Office to represent Hocog. Assistant public defender Richard Miller said the charges allow a bail of $61,000 cash.

Assistant attorney general George Hasselback said the charges may be changed to murder or voluntary manslaughter so he recommended no bail.

Detective Simon T. Manacop recommended a $100,000 cash bail.

Larry Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino male, was pronounced dead by a doctor at the Commonwealth Health Center on Thursday at 4:45pm due to severe head injury. He had been in coma since being taken to CHC on Monday night.

Detective Manacop stated in his report that on Monday at 5:35pm a disturbance near Kagman High School was reported to the Department of Public Safety.

Manacop said when a police officer arrived at the scene, medics were already there, attending to Gonzales who was sitting on the ground with blood on his face and a swollen left cheek.

The officer learned that a male person punched the victim in the face, causing him to fall and hit his head on the concrete pavement. The victim lost consciousness in the process.

The officer interviewed a female juvenile who witnessed the incident and claimed that the suspect was Hocog, her boyfriend. The juvenile told the officer that she was at Luyi's Computer and Repair doing her school project when Hocog came and asked her to go outside.

The juvenile said when she walked out of the computer room she saw Gonzales in the parking lot, putting coolant in his car. She said Hocog kept calling her and telling her to follow him to where Gonzales was standing. When she refused to follow him, the suspect talked with Gonzales.

The juvenile said she heard Gonzales asking Hocog for his watch. Hocog removed the watch and gave it to Gonzales. As the victim took the watch, the suspect allegedly punched him in the face. Gonzales fell down and lost consciousness. Hocog ran off.

The juvenile told police that Hocog may have been jealous of Gonzales.

Manacop said that after the medics completed their assessment and treatment of Gonzales, police officer Joseph Magofna was notified that Gonzales refused to be transported to CHC.

Magofna tried to interview Gonzales, but the victim said his head was really hurting and that he could not remember what happened. Gonzales opted to stay inside his vehicle. The officer left.

At 9:08pm, Magofna was dispatched to CHC after DPS learned that Gonzales was now in the emergency room. Medics informed the officer that they went back to the scene and transported Gonzales to CHC.

It was the owner of Luyi's Computer who called for assistance after finding the victim unconscious inside his vehicle.

A doctor told Magofna that Gonzales was not in good condition and that there was bleeding in his brain. The doctor advised that the next of kin should be notified because the injury was very serious. The victim was then transferred to the intensive care unit.

During his follow-up investigation at CHC on Tuesday, Manacop learned that Gonzales was now comatose since being admitted to the ICU. Manacop said Gonzales was on life support system and that the bleeding in his head had gotten worse.

Manacop said that on Thursday he received a call from CHC that Gonzales passed away at 4:45pm.

Manacop said that during another interview with the juvenile by two detectives on Thursday at her residence in Kagman, she informed them that Hocog was actually her former boyfriend.

The juvenile said they broke up about five months ago and that she later met Gonzales, who became her boyfriend. The juvenile said she ended her relationship with Gonzales a month ago.

FUNERAL

From Page 1

Ada, who was the district administrator for the islands during the Trust Territory days in the early 1970s, passed away on March 2 at the Commonwealth Health Center due to a lingering illness. He was 75.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the state funeral for Ada is "in recognition of his dedicated service to our people as our first lieutenant governor."

The NMI Constitution requires state funeral for top government officials, including governors and lieutenant governors.

Ada's state funeral will be held at 8am, Wednesday, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, said Inos.

His remains will arrive at the Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa at 10am, and a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11am. The burial follows shortly.

"I ask that the people of the Commonwealth continue to keep his family in their prayers during their time of grief," Inos said in a memorandum issued yesterday.

He added that all U.S. and CNMI flags throughout the CNMI shall continue to be flown at half-staff until sunset on the day of Ada's funeral. Inos immediately ordered flags to be flown at half-staff upon confirming Ada's death.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Office of the Governor, through the special assistant for administration, will be coordinating arrangements with the family of the late lieutenant governor.

The Ada family is humbled" about the planned state funeral.

"We're very humbled. We would have wanted to keep the ceremony simple but I think the state funeral is fitting. We're very grateful to the governor and the lieutenant governor for their kind words about my father," Ada's only son said, adding that the family has received messages of condolences and tributes to their father not only from the CNMI but also from other territories.

Ada served as lieutenant governor of the CNMI's first governor, Carlos S. Camacho, from 1978 to 1981.

The Saipan airport was officially renamed in his honor. It has since been called the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, pursuant to Saipan Local Law 13-10, signed by then Gov. Juan N. Babauta on Oct. 14, 2002.

Ada, who was born on Sept. 26, 1934, is survived by his wife Ines Seman Ada, and their seven children: former Commonwealth Development Authority director MaryLou Ada, former Northern Marianas College Board of Regents member Eloise Furey, attorney Lillian Tenorio, NMI Retirement Fund internal auditor Esther Ada, Office of Personnel Management's chief of classification and compensation Frank C. Ada Jr., Dr. Norma Ada, and Luciana Schubert, who flew to Saipan right away when their father was reported to be in serious condition.

Daily Mass is being offered at 6am at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.

Nightly rosary is also held at the Kristo Rai Church. Today and Sunday, the Rosary will be at 7:30pm. On Monday, it will be at 7pm, and on Tuesday, at 6pm.

CAMACHO

From Page 1

chuma" Camacho confirmed this yesterday with *Saipan Tribune.*

He said he received Joseph Camacho's letter of intent on Wednesday night and notified the Covenant Party Committee about it on Thursday.

The ruling Covenant Party chairman said there may still be some individuals who would submit their letter of intent to run as a delegate candidate under the party.

"We believe we have a strong candidate if it's him. But we also can't underestimate other candidates from other parties," the party chairman added.

This comes days after the chairman said the Covenant Party will have its own candidate in this year's federal election for the CNMI's congressional delegate seat. The party didn't have a candidate during the first election for the CNMI's delegate seat in November 2008.

Joseph Camacho said: "It's not my place to comment on this" when reached for comment.

The CNMI's first and current delegate, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), is seeking re-election.

Joseph Camacho's wife, attorney Viola Alepuyo, was legal counsel for Sablan in 2009. For two years, from 2005 to 2007, he and his wife were partners in the law firm Camacho&Alepuyo.

Joseph Camacho did not seek re-election after serving in the 16th House of Representatives. He established his own law firm, Joseph James Norita Camacho, last month.

Joseph Camacho earned his law degree at the Gonzaga University School of Law in Spokane, Washington State in 2001.

He earned his Master of Public Administration degree at the Seattle University in 1998, and his Bachelor of Arts in History at the San Jose State University in 1994.

The other political parties have yet to announce their candidates for delegate in the federal elections.

There were nine candidates in the CNMI's fist election for a delegate seat in November 2008.

The Northern Marianas is the last U.S. jurisdiction to get congressional representation. The law, which in May 2008 granted the CNMI the delegate seat, also allowed the federal government to take over labor and immigration controls in the Commonwealth.

A delegate has an annual salary of $174,000.

Under the measure, Northern Marianas will have a representative with limited voting powers to the U.S. House of Representatives. Similar to House members and other delegates, the CNMI delegate will be elected to Congress every two years. He can serve on committees, as well as vote on legislation at the committee level. But floor voting will not be permitted.

To be eligible, a candidate must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen and CNMI resident for at least seven years before the election, and a qualified CNMI voter on the date of the election. A candidate for CNMI delegate must not be running for any other office.

US Army Corps of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Marpi Point Field (located in the Banaderu area on the northern tip of the Island of Saipan, CNMI)

Recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former ***Marpi Point Field. This site was used by the United States military as an airfield.***

The former ***Marpi Point Field*** is one of many former military installations throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria, including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
PO Box 501092
Saipan, MP 96950

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former ***Marpi Point Field***, please contact:

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Getting global warming right

In its 2007 report on the effects of global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change stated that glaciers could vanish from the Himalayas by 2035. As has since been widely reported, with ill-disguised glee by many blogs and right-wing news outlets, this was a blunder. The prediction didn't come from a peer-reviewed scientific study but from a prominent Indian glacier expert who was quoted in a British popular science magazine—and who now claims he never gave such a date.

This wasn't the only error in the report, which has been a key justification of international efforts to fight climate change. It also claimed that 55 percent of the Netherlands is below sea level; actually, it's only 26 percent (the number came from the Dutch government, which has acknowledged its error). Other mistakes have been alleged, and it would be surprising if more weren't found, given that the report runs to 3,000 pages and attempts to summarize peer-reviewed studies and other complex evidence submitted by thousands of scientists around the world.

Except for the glaring glacier mistake, most of the alleged errors are minor, and some may not be errors at all. A controversial claim that up to 40 percent of the Amazon rain forest could react drastically to even slight reductions in precipitation apparently came from a World Wildlife Fund report rather than a peer-reviewed study, but a leading Amazon researcher has since affirmed that the number is correct. Still, the fact that reports from popular science magazines and environmental advocacy groups could have found their way into a document of such magnitude suggests that the IPCC isn't living up to its own standards. So we applaud the panel's announcement that it is appointing an independent committee to investigate the matter and ensure adherence to scientific procedures.

That's not enough for global warming deniers, of course. Sen. James M. Inhofe, R-Okla., asserts that the IPCC mistakes, combined with e-mails stolen from a British climate research center suggesting that some scientists let their political views compromise their objectivity, prove his contention that climate change theory is a hoax.

Nonsense. Although the IPCC errors have cast some light on the problems that arise when policymakers' demands for hard numbers conflict with the uncertainties of climate forecasting, they have done nothing to shake bedrock conclusions that the world is warming and that greenhouse gases generated by humans are the cause. Inhofe and others are waging a calculated misinformation campaign, seizing on every error or gap in scientific knowledge to cast doubt on research findings and portray scientists as villains. An identical strategy succeeded in delaying government action against tobacco companies for years despite overwhelming evidence of the hazards of cigarettes; this time, more than our lungs are at stake.

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Lessons can be learned from European health systems

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by e-mail at trubin@phillynews.com.

One of the most bewildering aspects of the current health-care debate is the failure to learn key lessons from health systems abroad.

Conservative talk show hosts decry the alleged evils of "socialized medicine" in countries with universal health coverage; they warn grimly of rationed health care. Yet there's nary a peep from Rush Limbaugh or Glenn Beck—let alone Congress—about countries such as Germany, France, Switzerland, or Japan, where coverage is universal, affordable, and top quality, and patients see private doctors with little or no waiting.

And, oh yes, their health costs are a fraction of our bloated numbers: The French spend 10 percent of GDP on health care, the Germans 11 percent, and they cover every citizen. We spend a whopping 17 percent and leave tens of millions of Americans uninsured.

If you want a very readable short course how European systems really work—as opposed to the Fox News version—take a look at "The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care," by T.R. Reid, a former *Washington Post* foreign correspondent. You might also watch a fascinating 2008 Frontline series, available online, in which Reid was an adviser: "Sick Around the World: Can the U.S. Learn Anything From the Rest of the World About How to Run a Health Care System?"

So far, the answer seems to be "No," not because there aren't valuable lessons, but because politicians won't relinquish their myths about European health systems. Reid takes up that task.

Myth No. 1, he says, is that foreign systems with universal coverage are all "socialized medicine." In countries such as France, Germany, Switzerland, and Japan, the coverage is universal while doctors and insurers are private. Individuals get their insurance through their workplace, sharing the premium with their employer as we do—and the government picks up the premium if they lose their job.

Myth No. 2—long waits and rationed care—is another whopper. "In many developed countries," Reid writes, "people have quicker access to care and more choice than Americans do." In France, Germany, and Japan, you can pick any provider or hospital in the country. Care is speedy and high quality, and no one is turned down.

Myth No. 3 really grabs my attention: the delusion that countries with universal care "are wasteful systems run by bloated bureaucracies." In fact, the opposite is true.

America's for-profit health insurance companies have the highest administrative costs of any developed country. Twenty percent or more of every premium dollar goes to nonmedical costs: paperwork, marketing, profits, etc. "If a profit is to be made, you need an army of underwriters to deny claims and turn down sick people," says Reid.

In developed countries with universal coverage, such as France and Germany, the administrative costs average about 5 percent.

That's because every developed country but ours has decided health insurance should be a nonprofit operation. (We once thought that, too, until private insurance companies began buying up nonprofit health insurers like Blue Cross and Blue Shield and converting them into profit-makers.) In France and Germany, health insurance is sold by private insurers, who can only charge fixed rates in the nonprofit health field, but can sell other forms of insurance for a profit.

These countries also hold down costs by making coverage mandatory and by using a unified set of rules and payment schedules for all hospitals and doctors. This does NOT mean a single-payer system or a government-run health system. But it does sharply cut health costs by eliminating the mishmash of records and charges used by our myriad insurance firms, who use all kinds of gimmicks to shift their costs.

A unified system makes it possible for France and Germany to use digital records; every insured person has a smart card that includes all his or her health information, further cutting the number of bureaucrats. U.S. companies oppose such efficiencies, Reid says, "because they spend money on proprietary systems and no one wants to get together on a common system." Can we afford this stubbornness?

For those who think we could never make the switch to such systems, take note that Switzerland shifted from private health insurers to nonprofits in 1994. And it's hard to see how we can cut costs without reining in our private health insurers.

None of these European plans have to be adopted wholesale. Yet there's no sign we're even examining them for useful lessons. Some U.S. senators on the Finance Committee bought Reid's book, but have you heard anyone talk about European health systems? Of course not.

It's easier to embrace our myths and pretend Americans know best about managing health care. But that's the biggest myth of them all.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

5 myths about your mail

By JOHN E. POTTER
Special to The Washington Post

John E. Potter is postmaster general of the United States.

For 235 years, the U.S. Postal Service has delivered your mail in snow, rain and dark of night. However, tough market conditions are creating new challenges for our business. Misconceptions about the future of our enterprise abound; dispelling these myths will show that we can continue to deliver the mail.

1. The Postal Service wastes taxpayer dollars.

The Postal Service, reorganized in 1971 as an independent agency of the executive branch, operates as a commercial entity. We rely on the sale of postage, mail products and services for revenue.

A small annual appropriation from Congress reimburses the USPS for free mail for the blind and absentee-ballot mailing for overseas military personnel. Otherwise, we have not received taxpayer funds to support postal operations since 1982; in fact, though we're often described as "quasi-governmental," we're required by law to cover our costs.

2. The Postal Service is inefficient.

Ten years ago, it took 70 employees one hour to sort 35,000 letters. Today, in that same hour, two employees process that same volume of mail. Though the number of addresses in the nation has grown by nearly 18 million in the past decade, the number of employees who handle the increased delivery load has decreased by more than 200,000.

According to the U.N.-affiliated Universal Postal Union, we deliver nearly half of the world's mail. The World Economic Forum, host of the annual summit of global power players in Davos, Switzerland, consistently ranks the U.S. Postal Service among the top 4 percent of more than 120 nations' and territories' postal services.

But keeping operating costs down is the greatest testament to efficiency. Since 2002, the Postal Service has cut its costs by $43 billion, including by $6 billion in 2009. These savings have come through workforce and overtime reduction, the renegotiation of more than 500 supplier contracts, the consolidation of facilities, the closing of administrative offices, and cuts in travel expenses and supply budgets.

Despite such efforts, the Postal Service was added to the Government Accountability Office's "high-risk list" last July to help put it on a more sustainable financial path. The GAO assessment, with which we agree, accurately reflects the Postal Service's fiscal condition, but the announcement also noted that many of the actions we've taken to reduce costs should continue.

We've also asked Congress to eliminate the statutory requirement that we deliver mail six days a week. A switch to five-day delivery would help us save more than $3 billion a year while still devoting appropriate resources to delivering the mail.

3. Mail is not reliable.

Independent quarterly surveys conducted by IBM confirm that the Postal Service has achieved record reliability levels. In the last quarter of 2009, on-time overnight delivery of single-piece first-class mail was at 96 percent for the fifth straight quarter, an agency best.

We're not only punctual, we're trusted and secure. According to the Federal Trade Commission, as little as 2 percent of identity crimes occur through the mail. Theft of a wallet or purse is responsible for 5 percent—meaning your documents are safer in the mail then they are in your pocket.

4. The USPS is not environmentally friendly.

There's no way around it: Delivering mail uses fossil fuels, and mail often produces paper waste. Still, the Postal Service is greener than you think. As long as consumers and businesses use physical mail, we're committed to finding ways to process it responsibly.

Our fleet of 44,000 alternative-fuel-capable vehicles is one of the largest in the world and includes electric, three-wheeled electric, hybrid electric, ethanol, fuel-cell, biodiesel and propane technology. More than a half-billion packages and envelopes that we provide free annually are recyclable and made of environmentally friendly materials. The quality of the raw materials in our packaging, including tape and labels, makes the USPS the only shipping company to meet the stringent eco-design and manufacturing standards set by McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry in its Cradle to Cradle program.

Last year, we recycled more than 200,000 tons of paper, plastics and other waste—the equivalent of saving 1.67 million barrels of oil, according to an online Environmental Protection Agency calculator. There are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified post offices, a 2.5-acre green roof on a major facility in downtown Manhattan, solar photovoltaic building systems and other sustainable building designs in use across the country.

Still, saving the environment doesn't begin and end with the Postal Service. That's why we encourage our customers to "read, respond and recycle." In 8,000 post offices nationwide, signs remind P.O. box customers to open their mail, take whatever action is necessary and place the waste in our recycling bins. The EPA reports that standard mail represents less than 2.1 percent of the material in our nation's landfills. (By comparison, disposable diapers represent 2.2 percent, glass beer and soft-drink bottles 3 percent, and yard trimmings 6.9 percent.)

5. The USPS can't compete with the private sector.

The Postal Service can and does compete. Our closest competitors, UPS and FedEx, don't threaten our business; as two of our biggest customers, they help build it. Our competition pays us to deliver more than 400 million of their ground packages every year in residential areas and on Saturdays. In turn, the USPS contracts with UPS and FedEx for air transportation to take advantage of their comprehensive air networks.

Although stamp prices have increased about 33 percent over the past 10 years, this increase is in line with inflation. By comparison, private carriers raised their prices by as much as 60 percent between 1999 and 2009. The Postal Service is, and has always been, a bargain.

It's no secret that the Postal Service has been losing money since 2007. What are not well known are the financial demands of the Postal Reform Act of 2006—demands not faced by the private sector. Though the USPS is self-supporting, its finances are tied to the federal budget because postal employees participate in federal retirement plans. In 2006, Congress required that the USPS prefund 80 percent of future postal retiree health benefits. This will cost more than $5 billion a year through 2016. No other federal agency or private company carries such a heavy burden.

Without the prefunding requirement, the Postal Service would have been better able to weather the recent recession. In 2008, prefunding contributed to a loss of $2.8 billion. Without it, we would have been $2.8 billion in the black.

Though we operate in a difficult legislative and economic environment, we are prepared to forge ahead. On March 2, we are releasing our plan for future financial viability and greater business flexibility—a plan that will keep the Postal Service thriving for years to come.

The Earth has its own set of rules

By B.E. MAHALL AND F.H. BORMANN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Early in our history it didn't make any difference how we viewed our environment. We could change it, and if we didn't like what we did to it, we could move and natural processes would soon obliterate whatever we had done. Over the years, models of our relationship to the environment have been based on religious views, with the world provided for us to dominate and subdue as described in Genesis, and philosophical views, seeing wisdom and virtue in nature as described by Thoreau.

But by far our most prevalent view of nature derives from a rudimentary human desire for more. This is the basis of the economic model that currently directs our relationships with one another and with our environment. It has produced stupendous human population growth and dramatic, deleterious effects on nature. Recognizing these effects, efforts have been marshaled to change the self-serving economic model with notions of Earth "stewardship," eloquently advanced decades ago by then-Interior Secretary Stewart Udall, and, most recently, to infiltrate the economic model with "ecosystem services" by assigning monetary values to functions performed by the Earth that are beneficial to people.

All of these views are fundamentally and dangerously flawed, because all are anthropocentric. They begin and end with humans. This isn't the way the Earth works.

The Earth has its own set of rules, solidly grounded in laws of physics and chemistry and emergent principles of geology and biology. Unlike our economic model, these are not artificial constructs. They are real, and they govern. Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, tornadoes, 100-year floods, massive wildfires and disease epidemics are dramatic examples of parts of nature, neither all service nor all harm, creating and destroying, and governed by rules that are indifferent to humans. Our anthropocentric economic model for interacting with the world ignores and is proving to be incompatible with Earth's rules, and is therefore on a direct collision course with them.

To achieve a more accurate model of our relation to nature, we need to see ourselves as part of nature, governed by nature (not economics), beholden to nature for ecosystem services and subject to nature's disturbances.

We need to view our existence in nature as dependent on numerous functions we are unable to perform ourselves, and without which we couldn't survive. And we need to recognize that we now have the power and the reckless inclination, driven by shortsighted anthropocentrism, to disrupt these functions to the degree that Earth will become uninhabitable for us.

In the end, the physical, chemical and biological rules of Earth will certainly win, and we will either be on the winning side or we will be vanquished. These are the only choices.

Our anthropocentric economic model needs to be reconceived, incorporating Earth's rules, to become an Earth-centered, "terracentric" model. Stewardship needs to progress from a condescending view of humans tending their "garden" to an effort to become part of Earth without disrupting its vital functions. Ecosystem services need to advance from recognition of services to humans to recognition of services to our planet. We need to find ways to avoid changing Earth in irreversible directions. We need to soberly evaluate anthropocentric economics' sacred cow, growth, in light of sustainability. And we need to think beyond our own brief lifetimes. Most important, in the new terracentric model, we need to acknowledge that there is nothing more important than preserving the viability of planet Earth. Nothing.

Using human ecologist Garrett Hardin's metaphor, Earth is our only "lifeboat" in a sea of empty, cold blackness. Our lives, and those of other organisms, are allowed in this boat only because of a quasi-steady environmental state created by a unique balance of physical, chemical and biological conditions and processes governed by Earth's rules. The central task of ecology is to understand these conditions, processes and rules and thereby understand the qualities and dimensions of this steady state.

Unfortunately, before ecology has reached this understanding, humans are testing this steady state's robustness with anthropogenic changes in atmospheric chemistry that cause changes in radiation through the atmosphere, fundamental changes in ocean chemistry and changes in the whole planet's energy budget—its balance of energy in and energy out. We are testing it with pervasive, potentially irreversible, long-term pollution of Earth's fresh and salt water, using a vast assortment of man-made chemicals that often possess biologically hazardous and ecologically unpredictable properties. We are testing it with relentless, massive, wholesale conversions of ecosystems, channeling their products exclusively into our own limitless consumption. And we are testing it with the global spread of biological species, causing a complex, hugely damaging homogenization of Earth's biota.

Recent measurements of unprecedented, directional changes in the vital signs of Earth suggest that we may have already staved in our lifeboat's hull, causing changes beyond the ability of Earth's biogeochemical forces to maintain balance. The quasi-steady state that makes our lives possible may be disappearing before our eyes. We are in direct conflict with Earth's rules.

The anthropocentric economic model is fundamentally incapable of providing more than temporary fixes for our massive environmental problems. Reliance on this invalid, incompetent model underlies the recent struggles of world leaders in Copenhagen and Washington to make significant progress in solving global environmental problems. Replacement of this failed model with an economic model that recognizes Earth's rules and embraces terracentricity as its essential focus is the primary step necessary to bring reality into our collective thinking and behavior, and provide an accurate conceptual basis for the hard decisions ahead that will determine the fate of life on our planet.

Bruce E. Mahall is a professor of ecology at UC Santa Barbara. F. Herbert Bormann, a professor emeritus at Yale University, is one of the founders of the Hubbard Brook Ecosystem Study. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

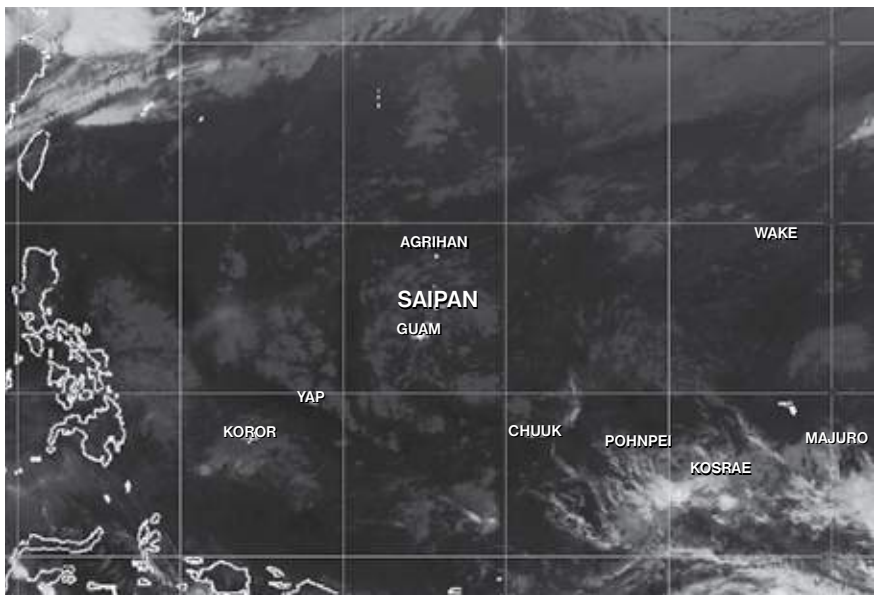
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲83	▼74
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲68	▼61
Beijing	Cloudy	▲33	▼21
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲81	▼66
Honolulu	Showers	▲77	▼70
London	Cloudy	▲45	▼34
Los Angeles	Thunderstorms	▲60	▼48
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼75
Melbourne	Rain	▲73	▼53
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼53
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼34
Osaka	Rain	▲50	▼42
Paris	Showers	▲43	▼25
Pusan	Rain	▲48	▼39
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼26
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼38
San Francisco	Rain	▲57	▼45
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼28
Tokyo	Rain	▲46	▼43
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲51	▼32

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers just west of Wake Island within 70 miles of a line from 20N166E to 20N162E to 18N159E. Widely scattered showers are also found over the Marianas between 10N and 19N from 145E to 153E between Yap and Guam within 75 miles of a line from 14N136E to 9N142E and over Koror within 70 miles of a line from 4N139E to 7N135E to 8N130E. A near-equatorial trough runs northeastward from EQ145E to 3N155E then turns southeastward to end at EQ180. Upper-level divergence is combining with low-level winds converging near the trough to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls but south of Pohnpei and Kosrae within 80 miles of a line from EQ161E to 2N157E to 4N161E to 4N170E to 1n175e.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:10 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
10:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:31 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Wednesday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:51 PM	10:26 AM
Sunday		11:17 AM
Monday	12:47 AM	12:10 PM
Tuesday	1:38 AM	1:03 PM
Wednesday	2:27 AM	1:55 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 6, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 6, 2000

NMI gets less fed grants than other US territories
The Northern Marianas government receives less federal funds than any other U.S. insular areas and has the lowest per capita in terms of the amount granted by Washington, according to the governor's press office. In a statement released Friday, the Public Information Office of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio cited figures from local and federal government sources as well financial reports and other private research, most of which done in 1997, to back up its claims. It said the CNMI generated more revenues from local sources with 91.5 percent of its operational cost and other expenditures in 1997 coming from its own income. In contrast, Guam had a percentage of 83 percent; Puerto Rico, 74 percent; Palau, 59 percent, Marshall Islands, 39 percent; FSM, 38 percent; and Virgin Islands, 81 percent.

Labor and business reform proposal endorsed in House
The House Commerce and Tourism has endorsed a comprehensive labor and business reform measure it said will rebuild the local economy, ease regulations on hiring of nonresident workers and provide opportunities for locals in the private sector. Offered by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, the bill was taken up during a session Saturday, but the 18-member chamber agreed to defer action until after it has reviewed amendments made by the committee. In a report adopted at the brief House session, the committee chaired by Rep. Florencio T. DeLeon Guerrero described the legislation as one of "most important" introduced in the CNMI Legislature in many years.

March 6, 2001

Marpi landfill project faces another delay
The CNMI is not likely to witness the closure of Puerto Rico dump sooner due to lack of funding and functional budget that would pave the road for the completion of the new solid waste facility in Marpi. Solid Waste Task Force Chair and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan disclosed the Marpi Landfill and the Transfer Station/Recycling Facility are running behind project schedule of about 12 months. The CNMI government originally anticipated the new sanitary landfill to be in operation by June this year. In a report submitted to House Committee on Health and Welfare Chair Rep. Malua Peter, Mr. Sablan discussed the developments of Puerto Rico Dump project and the recent submission of bids for the construction contract.

Funding aid for fuel leak cleanup sought
The Commonwealth Ports Authority will tap the assistance of insurance companies and Mobil Oil Marianas in the disbursement of additional funds to effectively implement its cleanup program. The cleanup program is geared at ridding the Saipan International Airport and adjacent land area of fuel that arose from an oil leak earlier in February. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas said the recovery and remediation work on soil contamination problems are scheduled to be completed by the end of this month. Officials of Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting and Tetra Tech EM Inc. have two more boring test missions to conduct. Three boring holes had been completed last month.

March 6, 2002

Factories commended for excellent efforts
The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association last week acknowledged the efforts of its member companies towards making improvements under SGMA's Code of Conduct and the Excellence 200 Partnership program. During a general membership meeting held last week at Aqua Resort Club, SGMA Chairman James Lin and Executive Director Richard A. Pierce handed out recognition plaques to 30 members in good standing and the Excellence 2000 Partnership awards to 23 factories. Also handed out were certificates to those who took part in the last SGMA-OSHA Training Conference issued by Occupational Safety & Health Region XI Administrator Frank Strasheim.

2 options laid down for Rota seaport
The Commonwealth Ports Authority is reviewing two options presented by the US Army Corps of Engineers in line with efforts to halt further deterioration of the Rota harbor. CPA Board Chair Roman S. Palacios said the current condition of the Rota seaport exposes the docking facility to further destruction, which may result to disruption in navigation and harbor operations.

Business

Weather expected to cloud February employment report

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government's closely watched monthly employment report will be unusually hard to read this time.

That's because the snowstorms that hammered the East Coast last month occurred on the same week that the government surveys businesses about their payrolls. Employees who couldn't make it to work and weren't paid won't be included on those payrolls. Job losses for February may be artificially inflated by 100,000 or more, economists estimate.

That doesn't mean the report that the Labor Department releases Friday will be dismissed. Economists expect to dig beneath the headline numbers to try to isolate underlying trends.

But given the intense interest in jobs among policymakers, economists and the public, the distortions come at an unfortunate time.

"It's a shame you won't get a clean reading ... when the sustainability of the recovery is uppermost on people's minds," said John Canally, an economist at LPL Financial.

Overall, economists forecast the unemployment rate will rise to 9.8 percent in February from 9.7 percent, according to Thomson Reuters. Employers are expected to shed 50,000 jobs, though that includes the snow impact.

The unemployment rate is less likely to be distorted by the weather, economists say. The reason is that it will count the workers who stayed home because of snow as employed. The jobless rate is likely to rise because companies are still reluctant to hire.

"It's hard to believe that the unemployment rate is falling when we're not creating jobs yet," said Conrad DeQuadros, an economist at RDQ Economics.

If job losses are artificially inflated in February, employment should snap back in March as hiring that was delayed takes place and workers return to jobs. That is what has happened after previous weather disruptions. In February 1996, for example, the nation posted robust job gains, a month after a severe snowstorm.

On Thursday, the economy showed renewed strength as retail sales surged last month and factory orders also increased. Such gains could lead to more hiring in coming months - if they can be sustained.

Retailers said Thursday that store sales rose in February by the largest amount since November 2007. And orders to U.S. factories in January posted their sharpest rise in four months, the Commerce Department said. It was another sign that manufacturing is helping drive the economic recovery.

Toyota holds rally with workers, dealers

TOYOTA, Japan (AP)—Toyota President Akio Toyoda urged thousands of his employees Friday to work toward a new start and win back customer trust following safety lapses that have battered the world's biggest carmaker.

"Let's go with high spirits, have fun and be confident while staying humble," Toyoda, choking up and wearing a gray workman's jacket, told 2,000 workers packed into the company's headquarters. "We are making a start today."

His address, billed as "An Urgent Meeting for All Toyota—Toward a New Beginning for Toyota," was also watched via live video by 7,000 workers at company plants. Representatives of suppliers and dealers also attended the event in the Japanese city named after the automaker.

Toyoda returned to Japan earlier this week after being grilled by U.S. lawmakers in a congressional hearing on the spate of quality lapses that include braking problems and sticking gas pedals. The problems have resulted in global recalls of 8.5 million vehicles, 6 million of them in the U.S.

Other executives who appeared before congressional hearings on Toyota's recalls also attended Friday's event.

The head of Toyota's North American sales unit, Jim Lentz, assured the crowd the company was working hard to restore customer trust. He urged all to be prepared for "a long road ahead" of harsh criticism.

Workers, who applauded executive speeches, said they were moved.

"I could feel the president's anguish, and I felt we all must work harder," Hideki Watanabe, 51, a Lexus engineer, said after the 45-minute meeting. "It breaks my heart to think that the cars we are making to bring joy to people might cause sorrow and accidents."

U.S. transport regulators have linked 52 deaths to crashes allegedly caused by sudden, unintended acceleration in Toyota cars.

An executive vice president, Takeshi Uchiyamada, said the Toyota brand was in "a serious crisis," acknowledging the company must improve monitoring of consumer complaints and respond more quickly during crises.

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

Sex offender in teen's killing eluded suspicion

SAN DIEGO (AP)—When 17-year-old Chelsea King disappeared in a park last week, authorities checked photographs of sex offenders registered in the San Diego area. John Albert Gardner III was not among them. When a 16-year-old girl was attacked last year in Riverside County, authorities did a similar check of the sex offender registry. Again, Gardner was not among them. In both investigations, Gardner eluded detection because he was registered as a sex offender in different counties. As authorities search for Gardner's possible links to other cases, his trail highlights how sex offenders in California manage to avoid suspicion even under a system designed to keep close tabs on the state's most dangerous predators.

DC-area sniper apologizes to Louisiana victim

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A Louisiana man shot by convicted DC-area sniper Lee Boyd Malvo has received a letter of apology. John C. Gaeta (gey-duh) says he's glad Malvo wrote him but isn't quite sure whether the sentiment is sincere. Last month, Malvo confessed to Louisiana detectives that he shot Gaeta in the parking lot of the Hammond Square Mall, but said he thought the man had died. The shooting was part of a criminal spree by Malvo and John Allen Muhammad that left 10 people dead and terrorized the Washington, D.C., area for three weeks in October 2002. Gaeta says Malvo expressed remorse in his letter and relief that he had not killed him.

Utah man determined to get arrested gets his wish

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—A man rebuffed in an attempt to get arrested, finally got his wish when he went for an officer's handgun. Unified police documents said the 54-year-old transient tried to turn himself in at the jail last weekend but an officer told him he had no reason to arrest him. At that point, police said the man grabbed for the officer's gun saying, "Maybe I'll try suicide by cop." Police said he failed in getting the gun and he also changed his mind about wanting to go to jail because he began to resist. The man, who was described as belligerent and appeared to be intoxicated, was subdued and jailed.

2 Pentagon police officers shot

Pentagon police patrol the Pentagon after a shooting in Washington, Thursday, March 4, 2010. AP

WASHINGTON (AP)—A gunman coolly drew a weapon from his pocket and opened fire at the teeming subway entrance to the Pentagon complex Thursday evening, wounding two police officers before being shot and critically wounded, officials said.

The two officers suffered grazing wounds and were being treated in a hospital, said Richard Keevill, chief of Pentagon police.

The suspect, believed to be a U.S. citizen, walked up to a security checkpoint at the Pentagon in an apparent attempt to get inside the massively fortified Defense Department headquarters, at about 6:40 p.m. "He just reached in his pocket, pulled out a gun and started shooting" at point-blank range, Keevill said. "He walked up very cool. He had no real emotion on his face." The Pentagon officers returned fire with semiautomatic weapons.

Of the suspect, the chief said, "His injury is pretty critical."

The assault at the very threshold of the Pentagon—the U.S. capital's ground zero on Sept. 11, 2001—came four months after a deadly attack on the Army's Fort Hood, Texas, post allegedly by a U.S. Army psychiatrist with radical Islamic leanings. In the immediate aftermath Thursday, investigators did not think terrorism was involved but were not ruling that out and did not discuss possible motives.

Law enforcement officials identified the suspect as John Patrick Bedell, 36. They also said they were speaking with a second man, who might have accompanied the shooter, and were running his name through databases.

The subway station is immediately adjacent to the Pentagon building, a five-sided northern Virginia colossus across the Potomac River from Washington. Since a redesign following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack on the Pentagon, riders can no longer disembark directly into the building. Riders take a long escalator ride to the surface from the underground station, then pass through a security check outside the doors of the building, where further security awaits.

After the attack, all Pentagon entrances were secured, then all were reopened except one from the subway, said Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman. He said the subway entrance was likely to remain closed overnight at least.

Keevill said the gunman gave no clue to the officers at the checkpoint about what he was going to do.

"There was no distress," he said. "When he reached into his pocket, they assumed he was going to get a pass and he came up with a gun."

"He wasn't pretending to be anyone. He was wearing a coat and walked up and just started shooting."

Keevill added: "We have layers of security and it worked. He never got inside the building to hurt anyone."

Obama urges Dems to seize moment on health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Support from his own party in doubt, President Barack Obama summoned more than a dozen House Democrats to the White House Thursday, pleading with them to put aside their qualms, seize a historic moment and vote for his massive health care overhaul.

It's the opportunity of a generation, he told them—and a chance to revive the party's agenda after his rough first year in office.

In back-to-back meetings in the Oval Office and Roosevelt Room, Obama urged uneasy rank-and-file moderates and progressives to focus on the positives rather than their deep disappointment with parts of the bill. The lawmakers said Obama assured them the legislation was merely the first step, and he promised to work with them in the future to improve its provisions.

"The president very pointedly talked about how important this is historically," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz., "how he needs our help." Obama told them that "'this is an opportunity, it'll give us momentum'" on other issues, the congressman said.

Cranking up the pressure, congressional leaders said they were hoping for votes on the legislation in as soon as two or three weeks.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters he believes the House is on schedule to approve the landmark legislation by March 18, when the president leaves for an Asian trip, and he can sign it into law "shortly thereafter."

Concerned about fellow Democrats' trepidation about a legislative drive that has garnered only modest public support, House leaders expressed optimism but hardly certainty that they would nail down enough support that soon. Democrats have repeatedly missed self-imposed deadlines for moving the legislation.

Obama's revved-up personal involvement, along with the cautious tone of congressional leaders' forecasts, illustrated the uncertainty still facing the president's yearlong drive to push his signature legislative initiative through Congress. The outcome is important for all Americans, since the changes would affect the ways nearly everyone receives and pays for health care and failure to act would leave in place a system that many find lacking and that leaves out tens of millions of people.

Under the current strategy, Democratic leaders want Congress to send Obama the nearly $1 trillion health overhaul that the Senate passed in December, plus a separate bill making changes that House Democrats want. But there's no decision yet on exactly what that second measure will look like.

Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Calif., among 16 lawmakers who met with the president, said Obama told them he understands the shortcomings of the current package.

"He thinks this approach is the way it's going to get done," said Lee, who heads the Congressional Black Caucus. "He said this is the first step, a foundation that we can build upon. He made a commitment to work with us on all the issues

WH leans toward military trials for 9/11 suspects

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House advisers are nearing a recommendation for President Barack Obama to choose a military trial for self-professed Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed and four of his alleged henchman, senior administration officials said Thursday.

The review of where and how to hold a Sept. 11 trial is not over, so no recommendation is yet before the president and Obama has not made a determination of his own, officials said. The review is not likely to be finished this week.

Officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss private deliberations.

The matter is at the White House after Attorney General Eric Holder decided in November to transfer Mohammed and the four other accused terrorists from the prison at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to New York City for civilian trials. Initially supported by city officials, the idea was later opposed because of costs, security and logistical concerns.

When opposition ballooned further into Congress and an attempted Christmas airline bombing brought massive scrutiny to Obama's terrorism policies, the administration said it would review Holder's trial decision and consider all options for a new location.

Police: Calif. mother dumped newborn in trash

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jessie Canfield was attending a surprise birthday party with family and friends when she began feeling discomfort and cramping then ducked into a bedroom for several hours. Partygoers told police she said nothing about giving birth to a 6-pound baby girl.

Canfield, 24, was arrested Wednesday, hours after trash collectors found a newborn dead in an overstuffed bin outside the Redondo Beach home where the party was held, police Lt. Joe Hoffman said.

"She's saying that she didn't know" she was having a baby, and she appeared "distraught over a tragic situation," Hoffman said.

After the party, Canfield left for Santa Barbara, where she stays with family.

Redondo Beach investigators found her there and took her to an emergency room for an examination and treatment before booking her for investigation of murder at Los Angeles County Jail. The name of her lawyer could not be immediately determined.

Detectives don't know if the baby was alive when she was dumped in the bin. The baby was found just blocks from a fire station where unwanted babies can be surrendered.

The Safely Surrendered Baby Law was passed in California in 2001 to allow parents to give up their babies without fear of prosecution at fire stations, hospitals and other locations. California is one of at least 46 states with such a law.

Through December 2009, a total of 331 babies had been surrendered to authorities since the law went into effect. Another 151 babies have been found abandoned during that time.

Asia

Police investigate deadly Indian temple stampede

KUNDA, India (AP)—Police launched a criminal investigation Friday into a deadly stampede at a Hindu temple in northern India as relatives made funeral preparations for the 63 victims, most of them women and children.

The stampede occurred Thursday afternoon as thousands of poor villagers scrambled for free food and clothes at a commemorative event at a temple in the small town of Kunda, on the northern plains of Uttar Pradesh state.

Authorities were not informed of the event beforehand and adequate measures to ensure the safety of participants were not in place, Superintendent of Police S.M. Mishra said.

Relatives also complained that organizers should have done a better job of controlling the crowds.

Mishra said police opened a criminal negligence case against the temple management.

Meanwhile, grieving families prepared to hold funerals for the victims.

In the village of Piranagar, a few miles (kilometers) from Kunda, the bodies of 8-year-old Vandana and her 12-year-old sister, Sanjana, were wrapped in white sheets and placed on slabs of ice in their small house until their father could return home later Friday from his job ironing clothes in the distant city of Mumbai.

Their mother, Bimla Devi, sat crying nearby among weeping relatives and neighbors.

The girls had gone to the temple along with their mother and their 15-year-old sister Khushboo.

"We knew that we would get an offering so we went," Khushboo said. "Then we felt people starting to push us, and people started falling on top of us. In this madness, my two sisters died."

The handouts in Kunda are an annual tradition arranged by local religious leader Kripalu Maharaj to mark the anniversary of his wife's death, a common practice in India.

The event usually draws a few hundred people, but was announced more broadly this year and attracted several thousand villagers, said state lawmaker Raghuraj Pratap Singh, who represents Kunda, about 110 miles (180 kilometers) southeast of the state capital of Lucknow.

Kashmir
Stampede at Hindu temple kills at least 60 people, injures more
PAK.
New Delhi
NEPAL
Kunda
BANG.
INDIA
500 km
500 miles
Deadliest stampedes
July 2, 1990 Saudi Arabia
About 1,425 pilgrims die in crush in tunnel leading to Mecca
Aug. 31, 2005 Baghdad, Iraq
Up to 1,000 Shia pilgrims trampled to death
Jan. 12, 2006 Mina, Saudi Arabia
At least 364 die during annual Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca
Jan. 25, 2005 Maharashtra state, India Up to 300 die at Mandar Devi Hindu temple
Feb. 1, 2004 Mina, Saudi Arabia
About 250 trampled to death during the Hajj
Source: ESRI, BBC
© 2010 MCT

Pakistan: Another senior Afghan Taliban in custody

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani intelligence agents have arrested a senior Afghan Taliban commander, the latest move in a crackdown on the insurgent network in Pakistan.

Agha Jan Mohtasim, a former finance minister for the Taliban before the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, was detained in the southern city of Karachi, two intelligence officials said Thursday. One of the officials said two other Taliban associates were arrested along with Mohtasim, though he would not identify them.

The agents did not say when the arrests were made, and spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give their names to the media.

Pakistan and Afghan officials have said at least four other Afghan Taliban leaders have been arrested in Pakistan in recent weeks, including the No. 2 leader of the movement, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

The arrests have been hailed by U.S. officials and many analysts as a major blow to the Taliban in Afghanistan, though they caution the group has rebounded from the death or detention of previous leaders.

Opinion is divided on whether the crackdown signals that Pakistan's powerful intelligence forces are adopting a harder line against the militants.

The United States has long demanded Pakistan take action against the group, which critics say has long enjoyed relative sanctuary in Pakistan.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China wants to restart NKorea nuclear talks soon

BEIJING (AP)—China hopes to revive stalled negotiations on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program within the next few months, an official newspaper reported Friday. The comment from Beijing's envoy to the six-country talks follows a flurry of diplomatic efforts in recent weeks to prod North Korea into rejoining the negotiations. Envoys held a number of bilateral meetings aimed at restarting the process that has been stalled since last year. "China's goal is to restart the six-party talks in the first half of this year. That's our expectation, but it is difficult to say if this will be realized," envoy Wu Dawei was quoted as saying by the official China Daily newspaper.

Indonesia police, militants clash in Aceh province

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian authorities flew 14 alleged terrorists from Aceh to Jakarta on Friday, hours after raiding another group of suspected Islamic militants in the restive province. Police said they were investigating possible links to a terrorist threat to shipping. A police officer was killed and at least 10 were wounded in the raid Thursday in Aceh's Lamkabeue village, provincial police chief Maj. Gen. Aditya Warman told reporters. Police were investigating whether the militants were linked to a threat to shipping in the nearby Malacca Strait, national police chief Gen. Bambang Hendarso Danuri said in Jakarta, without elaborating.

North Korean who shopped for dictators goes public

VIENNA (AP)—A North Korean colonel who spent two decades going on European shopping sprees for his country's rulers said Thursday the late dictator Kim Il Sung lived in luxury while many people struggled to survive in his impoverished communist nation. Kim Jong Ryul, who spent 16 years under cover in Austria, also described how the "great leader" and his son and successor Kim Jong Il spent millions pampering and protecting themselves with Western goods—everything from luxury cars, carpets and exotic foods, to monitors that can detect heartbeats of people hiding behind walls and gold-plated handguns. The colonel's account—told in a new book by Austrian journalists Ingrid Steiner-Gashi and Dardan Gashi—shows the deep divide between the lifestyles of the North Korean leadership and their citizens, who sometimes must subsist eating tree bark, knowing they will be sent to labor camps if they criticize the government.

World

Passenger ferry freed from Baltic Sea ice

STOCKHOLM (AP)—A passenger ferry with nearly 1,000 people on board broke free early Friday from heavy pack ice that had trapped it for hours in the Baltic Sea of Sweden's east coast, officials said.

Dozens of other ships remained stuck and awaiting assistance after gale-force winds built up large ice masses along the Swedish coastline. Ice breakers helped release the ferry Amorella at the edge of an archipelago north of Stockholm, rescue spokesman Jonas Sundin said. Rescue helicopters and military hovercraft had been placed on standby to evacuate passengers if needed.

Sundin said no one was hurt and the ship was continuing its voyage to the Swedish capital early Friday.

The Swedish Maritime Administration said the Amorella had 753 passengers and 190 crew on board. The 10-deck ship belongs to Viking Line, which operates Baltic Sea cruises between Sweden and Finland.

The other ships stuck in the area were the roll-on-roll-off ferry Sea Wind with 32 people and the Regal Star, a cargo ship with 56 people on board. Sundin said the icebreakers would try to set them free Friday morning.

Three other ferries that got stuck in the ice were able to break free on Thursday.

One of those ships, the Finnfellow, collided lightly with the Amorella when the ice pressed the two ships together, but there was no major damage to either ship, officials said.

A total of about 50 ships were stuck in ice along Sweden's eastern seaboard, said Johny Lindvall, who manages the maritime administration's ice breaker service.

AP

In this photo made from TV ships are seen trapped in ice in the Baltic Sea on Thursday, March 4, 2010.

Many quake survivors pin hopes on new president

DICHATO, Chile (AP)—Chile's earthquake and tsunami smashed this pretty little tourist town into splinters, leaving immense piles of wreckage and an awful stench. Rooting through the remains Thursday, Dichato's residents said they are pinning their hopes for renewal on the new president, a conservative billionaire who takes office next week.

Nothing short of mammoth reconstruction can return Dichato to a semblance of what it was, and survivors here—and throughout the disaster zone—said they're hoping President-elect Sebastian Pinera is up to the job.

"Chile is a country on the rise, economically strong, with many businesses. And because of this we expected more" of President Michelle Bachelet's leftist administration, said Amanda Ruiz, a secretary in a construction firm. "We're disillusioned."

"I think he has the ability to do it," said Luis Omar Cid Jara, 66, whose bakery and roast chicken shop on Dichato's main street were destroyed.

Critics said Bachelet initially was reluctant to summon the military to stop looting and deliver aid, given the armed forces' brutal repression of the Chilean left in the past, especially during the 1973-1990 dictatorship of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Pinera, who takes office March 11, stepped up his criticism of the outgoing president. He called Thursday for a sweeping modernization of Chile's disaster system to eliminate what he called "the lack of coordination and the weaknesses that this tragedy has uncovered with brutal eloquence."

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraq early voting shattered by deadly blasts

BAGHDAD (AP)—A string of deadly blasts shattered an early round of voting in Iraq Thursday, killing 17 people and highlighting the fragile nature of the country's security gains ahead of crucial parliamentary elections this Sunday. Iraq security forces were out in full force, trying to protect early voters in an election that will determine who will lead the country through the crucial period of the U.S. troop drawdown and help decide whether the country can overcome its deep sectarian divisions. But three explosions—a rocket attack and two suicide bombings—showed the ability of insurgents to carry out bloody attacks. They have promised to disrupt the voting with violence. "Terrorists wanted to hamper the elections, thus they started to blow themselves up in the streets," said Deputy Interior Minister Ayden Khalid Qader, responsible for election-related security across the country.

Venezuelan court reinstates anti-Chavez mayor

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuela's highest court has reinstated an opposition mayor, just one week after it annulled his election and replaced him with a supporter of President Hugo Chavez. The decision came from justices on the Supreme Court's constitutional council—the tribunal's highest authority. They overturned a ruling handed down by the court's electoral council annulling the 2008 election of Jorge Barboza, mayor of the Sucre municipality in western Zulia state. That ruling said Barboza failed to pay $292 in local taxes. The constitutional council announced in a statement Thursday that last week's ruling was unconstitutional because it violated Barboza's political rights.

Hamas bans men from women's hair salons

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Gaza's Islamic Hamas government on Thursday banned men from working in women's hair salons, the latest step in its campaign to impose strict Islamic customs on Gaza's 1.5 million people. Since seizing Gaza in 2007, Hamas has taken steps in that direction while avoiding a frontal assault on secularism. The majority of Gaza residents are conservative Muslims, but Hamas is under growing pressure from more radical groups to prove its fundamentalist credentials by imposing ever harsher edicts. The latest measure irked one of the victims of the ban.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, March 6, 2010

Final bell for Pacquiao?

By LANCE PUGMIRE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Manny Pacquiao's trainer, Freddie Roach, delivered this knee-buckling assessment for boxing fans already distraught by the failed Pacquiao-Floyd Mayweather Jr. negotiations.

"This could be our last fight," Roach said last week, as Pacquiao heads into the final days of training for his March 13 welterweight world title bout against Joshua Clottey at Cowboys Stadium in Dallas.

Roach's sobering speculation about boxing's biggest star is based on a chain of events that could occur.

Pacquiao, 31, is running for a congressional seat in his native Philippines. If elected in May, he'll represent a community of about 400,000 people in need of improved health care, education and employment that the boxer himself was deprived of while being raised in poverty.

"I can see the help people need because I've been in that place," Pacquiao said. "They're poor, suffering, and needing help from the government. I know what they feel."

His public-service duties will be tremendous, the boxer and his closest advisers know, and his election is more realistic than it was when he failed to win a national seat a few years ago.

Pacquiao, recently selected fighter of the decade, has won 11 consecutive fights against the likes of Oscar De La Hoya, Ricky Hatton, Miguel Cotto and Juan Manuel Marquez.

If he beats Clottey as expected, and if Mayweather defeats Shane Mosley on May 1, negotiations for a Pacquiao-Mayweather bout are likely to resume.

"I've talked to Manny about this. And if Mayweather doesn't come back to the table in a mood to negotiate, the public demand won't be there for any other fight," Roach said. "So if Manny wins the election and likes politics, this (Clottey fight) could be it. And I have no problem with that. I don't want Manny to be one of those guys who stays too long. It's better to go out on top.

"That's my goal for him, and I've told him, 'Don't do it like everyone else in the world.'"

Pacquiao (50-3-2, 38 knockouts) has fought only six fewer bouts than Muhammad Ali, and has boxed the same number of rounds (305) that "Sugar" Ray Leonard had when he retired.

Roach also serves as a reminder to the perils of an overextended boxing career, as he battles the effects of pugilistic Parkinson's syndrome.

Before a recent workout at Roach's Wild Card gym in Hollywood, Pacquiao expressed enthusiasm to fight Mayweather, but also noted the uncertainty over his future.

"It's hard to say. Is this my last fight? We'll see," Pacquiao said. "One never knows. It's still so early to be talking about this, but I do like the thought of going out on top.

"We did a lot in boxing, achieved a lot—more than what we set out to do."

As Pacquiao prepares for Clottey, his workout regimen remains intense. His devotion to the sweet science is such that his sparring partner, Steve Forbes, describes Pacquiao as a human version of a "little Tasmanian devil."

Yet, Pacquiao's popularity gives him options to make a lucrative income outside the sport in acting, music and endorsements.

And the bitterness of the previous Pacquiao-Mayweather negotiations lingers. The fighters argued over Mayweather's insistence to adopt Olympic-style drug testing before the bout. Mayweather's implications led Pacquiao to sue Mayweather for defamation.

"In my opinion, (Mayweather) wasn't ready for the fight, he needed a reason to stop it," Pacquiao said. "People say to me all the time they want to see Pacquiao-Mayweather, Mayweather-Pacquiao, whatever you want to call it, and I'm a fighter," pounding over his heart with his right fist, "I'm concerned with giving the people what they want.

"Look, if I was bigger than him, I can understand him making this big deal. He's bigger than me. We have a boxing commission in Nevada. They were fine with what we were doing (regarding testing). The fighter doesn't get to change the rules."

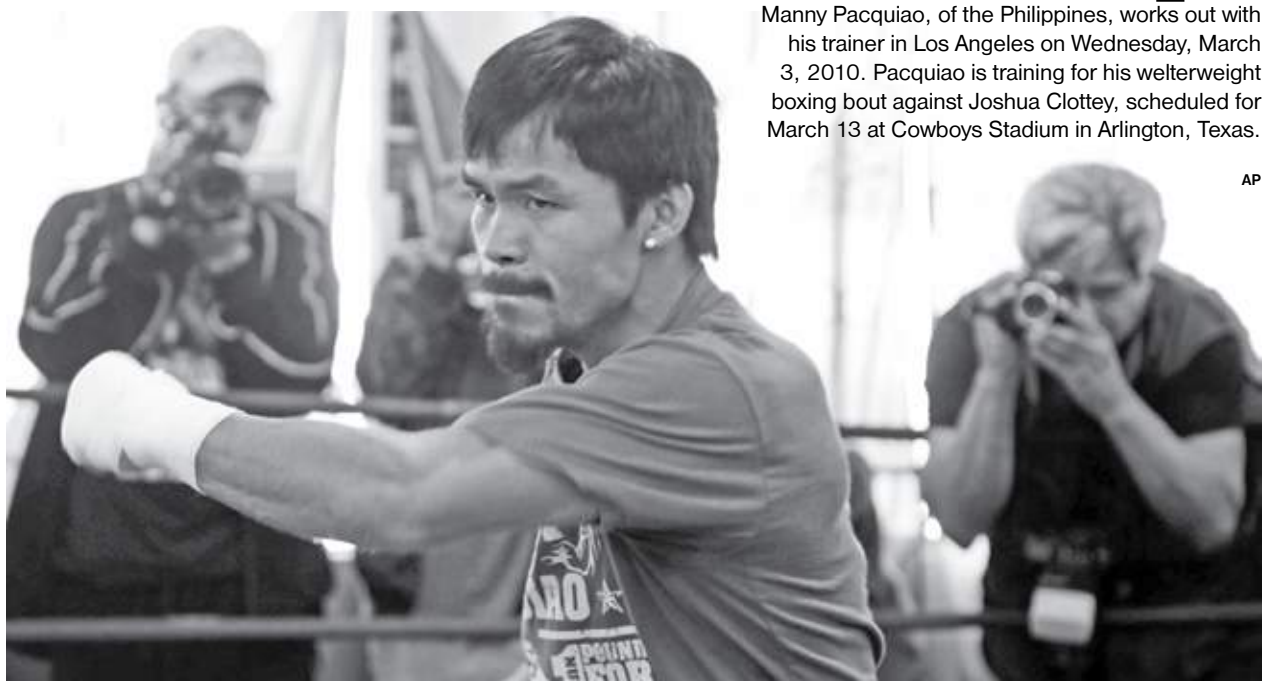
On his Twitter page, Mayweather responded to a follower by asking, "Ask (Pacquiao) why he wouldn't take a $25,000,000 blood test, because I honestly don't know."

Meanwhile, Mayweather's promoter, Richard Schaefer, cast a dire tone about future contract talks.

"I've never said I believe I'll be able to get this fight done the second time," Schaefer said. "Each side feels strongly about its position, and I don't see either side giving in. It could be one of those scenarios where you just move on. Some fights just don't happen. That's the way of life."

And if Pacquiao retires from boxing?

"People wondered, 'Who's going to carry the mantle?' after Oscar retired, and Manny Pacquiao popped up," Schaefer said. "There'll always be a next great star."



Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, works out with his trainer in Los Angeles on Wednesday, March 3, 2010. Pacquiao is training for his welterweight boxing bout against Joshua Clottey, scheduled for March 13 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

AP

Roach: It'll be over in nine; Arum disagrees

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HOLLYWOOD—Master trainer Freddie Roach believes Joshua Clottey will fall in nine, but topnotch promoter Bob Arum says he expects Manny Pacquiao's foe to go the distance.

Roach, who had earlier predicted that his prized ward would hand the Ghanaian challenger his first-ever knockout loss, said the end will come in the ninth round of the 12-round bout.

Arum, the head honcho of Top Rank which promotes both Pacquiao and Clottey, offered a different scenario, however.

The 77-year-old Harvard-educated lawyer said Pacquiao's defense of his World Boxing Organization welterweight title on March 13 against Clottey will be "a distance fight."

Arum said he'd be surprised if Pacquiao carves out an abbreviated win over Clottey, who has been knocked down only once in 38 fights (35-3).

He said Clottey is a very dangerous welterweight who is capable of bucking the odds and clipping Pacquiao's 11-game winning streak, the last four by knockout.

If Clottey wins, Arum said he'd see to it that there would be a rematch, although that is not stipulated in the fight contract.

While Roach agrees that Clottey is a tough, durable fighter, the four-time Trainer of the Year insists Pacquiao (50-3-2 with 38 knockouts) is going to add the Ghanaian to his list of vanquished opponents.

"We know his pluses and his mistakes," said Roach. "He has a good defense but is very predictable. If his chin holds, we'll destroy him downstairs."

Roach added that Clottey can't afford to coast against Pacquiao in the late rounds because the three-time Fighter of the Year will "finish him off if he does that."

While Roach is happy with the way training camp has turned out, Arum is ecstatic that paying fight fans have vigorously responded to the showdown between Pacquiao and Clottey.

Praising Pacquiao's drawing power, Arum bared that only about 7,000 tickets have remained unsold for the fight, dubbed as "The Event" and scheduled at the spanking $1.2-billion Cowboys Stadium, which has been reconfigured to accommodate 45,000 fans.

Arum said Top Rank plans to stage more big fights at stadiums, rather than at hotels in gambling havens which can hardly sit 20,000.

He said boxing must be seen by the masses and with lower ticket prices, the sport will sustain its revival.

Free health screening tomorrow for Filipino workers

The Philippine Consulate General is hosting its first quarter "Free Health Screening for OFWs" tomorrow, March 7, 2010, at the ground floor of the Marianas Business Plaza Building. Registration is at 7am - 8am and the actual activity will be from 8am to 12pm.

This free health screening program by the Philippine Consulate, Philippine Overseas Labor Office, and Overseas Workers Welfare Administration is done in cooperation with the Filipino Volunteer Medical Team, CNMI Pharmacist Association and Hardt Eye Clinic. The medical services include blood pressure, blood sugar, and vision checkups. OFWs who are availing of the blood sugar level checkup must refrain from taking solid and liquid food from 12 midnight to actual testing.

Last calendar year of 2009, a total of 1,601 OFWs benefited from the health screening program, with 1,228 availing of the blood pressure and blood sugar checkups, and 373 availing of the eye-vision checkup. The average number of OFWs who comes for checkups every quarter is 400.

This program is being conducted to increase the level of awareness on diabetes prevention and control, hypertension prevention and eye/vision pressure correction among OFWs. Through this project, the Philippine Consulate General hopes to reach more and serve even if in a modest way, the medical needs, while fostering the spirit of volunteerism in the true spirit of *Filipino bayanihan* here in Saipan.

The Philippine Consulate General will also be open to provide normal consular services on the same day, March 7, to make up for the early closure of the Consulate last Sunday, Feb. 28, due to a tsunami warning alert. Those availing of consular services may proceed to the 5th floor of the Marianas Business Plaza from 9am to 4pm. ***(PR)***

Aquino gains slim lead in presidential race—poll

By MAILA AGER
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Senator Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III has regained his lead over Senator Manny Villar, closest rival in the presidential race in the latest survey by Pulse Asia released this Friday.

Of the 1,800 respondents surveyed nationwide from February 21 to 25, 36 percent said they would vote for Aquino to Villar's 29 percent if the 2010 elections were held today. The survey had a ±2 percent margin of error.

Despite the slim lead, however, Aquino's rating was a one-percent drop from the previous 37 percent in the survey conducted January 22 to 26 that saw him in a statistical tie with Villar, who got 35 percent, with a ±2 percent margin of error.

Former president Joseph Estrada followed Villar in the February survey, with 18 percent; Former defense secretary Gilberto Teodoro is in fourth place, with 7 percent; evangelist Brother Eddie Villanueva, 2 percent; and Senator Richard Gordon, 1 percent, the survey said.

Senator Ma. Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal received 0.3 percent; Nicanor Perlas, 0.2 percent; Acosta Vetallano, 0.04 percent; JC de Los Reyes, 0, it said.

But Vetallano had been disqualified by the Commission on Elections from the race for lack of qualifications and funds to run a campaign.

Pulse Asia noted that the February survey was conducted at the height of the Senate's plenary deliberations on the ethics complaint filed against Villar, who has been accused of using his position to profit from the allegedly anomalous C-5 road extension project.

Villar faced his colleagues in the plenary to reiterate his innocence but refused to entertain questions after delivering a speech.

In the vice presidential race, Aquino's running mate, Senator Manuel "Mar" Roxas maintained his "sizable lead" over other candidates with 43 percent, but a drop of 4 percent from the January survey.

Villar's running mate, Senator Loren Legarda came in second with 27 percent; and Estrada's running mate, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, 15 percent; Bayani Fernando, 4 percent; and Actor Edu Manzano, Teodoro's running mate, 2 percent.

DEMOLITION AP

A Filipino Catholic priest and other residents remain on top of a house while the demolition team pounds on the walls of a house in suburban Navotas, north of Manila, Philippines on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. The Philippine government has planned to modernize the capital by improving its infrastructure but thousands of squatters may have to be relocated.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

28K fake Louis Vuitton goods seized in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Fake Louis Vuitton hand bags, leather cases and accessories worth $4.6 million have been seized from a dozen stalls in a shopping mall and two warehouses in the Philippines capital. The National Bureau of Investigation said more than 28,000 counterfeit items were seized Feb. 24 on a complaint by Louis Vuitton's director for brand enforcement in the Asia-Pacific region. The report issued Wednesday said the owners and operators of the raided establishments will be charged with violating the country's intellectual property code, which is punishable by up to nine years in prison. How many people would face charges wasn't disclosed. Counterfeit goods proliferate in Manila's flea markets, where cheap prices attract buyers.

Carpenter gets 17-year prison term for cabbie's slay

MANILA, Philippines—A carpenter has been sentenced to 17 years in jail by a Quezon City court for shooting dead a taxi driver in New Manila in 2006. In a decision, Judge Rosanna Maglaya, of Regional Trial Court Branch 88, convicted Jonathan Cabatuan of homicide for the shooting of Hugo Intoy, a cab driver of Philippians Taxi. The court, however, acquitted Cabatuan of the crime of robbery because the prosecution was unable to prove that he took any of the victim's belongings. Cabatuan was earlier charged with the special complex crime of robbery with homicide after an eyewitness identified him as the gunman. The court sentenced the accused to a maximum of 17 years and four months in jail for homicide or reclusion temporal. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

3-year-old boy killed in train accident in Muntinlupa

A 3-year-old boy was killed in an accident involving a train of the Philippine National Railways in Muntinlupa City. The victim, identified as Sky Morales, was playing on Wednesday night near the railroad tracks in Barangay Sucat when a PNR train bound for Manila passed by, Senior Supt. Elmer Jamias, Muntinlupa police chief, said in a report Thursday. Jamias said the victim was dragged under neath the tracks and was killed instantly. His badly mangled body was later found by residents in the area. Police said they were trying to determine whether the train operator and driver could be held liable for the victim's death. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Check out cop recruits, says Rosales

MANILA, Philippines—For National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Roberto Rosales, getting rid of the bad apples in the ranks of law enforcers should be a community effort, and it should start with the recruitment of prospective police officers. The NCRPO chief Thursday sought help from the public in cleansing their ranks by providing information about applicants who are not fit to join the force. Rosales said the public could check out the names of the applicants in the NCRPO website (www.metromanilapolice.org). In case they have "derogatory" information about the applicants, all they have to do is to contact their office. To protect the rights of the applicants, however, Rosales gave the assurance that any information against them would be checked by intelligence officers. The official also asked prospective informants to be honest with investigators. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Fire hits Binondo building, destroys P1-M goods

MANILA, Philippines—Some P1 million worth of goods were destroyed Thursday morning when fire struck a storage room at a building in Binondo, Manila. No one was reported hurt or killed as tenants of the building owned by Mariano Realty Corp. were immediately able to get out of the structure. SFO2 Emmanuel Gaspar, arson investigator of the Manila Fire District (MFD), said that the fire destroyed cartons, candy and repacking materials owned by Jerry Co. The goods were stored at the sixth floor of the commercial-residential building at the corner of Elcano and Sto. Cristo Streets in Binondo. Gaspar said that although the blaze did not go beyond the sixth floor, it reached the first alarm because the fire was in a building. "Ladders had to be used and the possibility of people getting trapped inside the establishment was high," he explained. The fire started at around 6:10 a.m. and was put out by responding firemen about an hour later. *(Philippine Daily Inquirer)*

Technology firm in automated polls trains 50,000 staff

By ANNA VALMERO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The automation partner of the Commission on Elections has started hiring and training about 50,000 technicians and technical personnel for the May elections, a spokesman for the company told INQUIRER.net Thursday.

Smartmatic-Total Information Management spokesman Gene Gregorio said the firm was hiring and training 42,000 technicians and 2,000 supervisors for precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines situated in voting centers nationwide and 4,000 technicians for the consolidation and canvassing system (CCS) in municipal, city, provincial, regional and national canvassing levels.

The technicians will assist the Board of Election Inspectors and Board of Canvassers, mostly teachers, in the conduct of the polls on May 10 as stipulated in the P7.1 billion automation agreement with Comelec.

"Overall, we are hiring 48,000 technicians to ensure operations of the PCOS and CCS machines in 76,000 polling centers. Each technician would handle the PCOS units in two clustered precincts situated in one polling place or school. Then we have to hire another 700 agents for our contact solutions office," said Gregorio.

"Deploying PCOS technicians and supervisors is a standard procedure for Smartmatic in its previous automation contracts to ensure reliability of the operations," the official added.

He said they would hire another 700 call center agents to man the 24/7 contact operations center it was setting up for the May 10 polls. The office will be operational from the eve of election day until all winners are proclaimed, he said.

The 700 call center agents will guide the field technicians for PCOS and CCS to troubleshoot when, for example, the machine won't print an election return (ER) due to lack of ink or won't transmit the ER due to lack of network coverage. In the last scenario, contact solutions agents would arrange for PCOS units to be delivered to the polling precinct.

In case of lack of cellular network coverage, Smartmatic-TIM agreed with Comelec to provide 5,500 mobile satellite units or BGAN terminals and 650 units of VSATs, a satellite terminal which is less portable than the first, said Gregorio.

"We already have 5,000 units of BGAN and we are renting 500 more plus 650 VSATs to allow transmission of ERs to Comelec servers for areas without network signals," said Gregorio.

On February 27, the remaining 13,500 machines arrived in the country and were turned over to Comelec March 1 for stress, accuracy and security testing at its Laguna warehouse.

This week, Comelec has also started the training of some of the 400,000 teachers who will sit as BEIs on election day. About 500 Comelec personnel were trained by Smartmatic-TIM on the new functions of the BEI, including the operation of the PCOS machines and basic troubleshooting solutions.

PCOS is a technology that scans, captures ballot images and counts the shaded ovals opposite the printed names of the candidates in the ballots for the automated generation and transmission of Election Returns from polling precincts to servers. The CCS is the automated canvassing system that will generate the consolidated votes for a candidate from municipal or city up to national levels.

Comelec expects 50 million registered voters to cast their ballots on May 10.

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Philippines, Muslim rebels eye interim peace deal

By EILEEN NG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Philippine government and a Muslim separatist group engaged in a decades-long rebellion hope to sign an interim peace agreement in coming months, a Malaysian official facilitating peace talks said Thursday.

The proposed plan commits both sides to work on a peace deal after a new government is elected to ensure talks will not be derailed after President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leaves office in June, said Othman Abdul Razak, the facilitator for the Malaysia-hosted talks in Kuala Lumpur.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front proposed setting up task forces to cement cooperation on issues such as constitutional legislation, financing and infrastructure, Othman said.

The 11,000-strong separatist group has been fighting for self rule in the Mindanao region for decades. More than 120,000 people have died in repeated clashes with government troops, and the conflict has held back economic progress in some of the Philippines' poorest regions.

The Philippine government negotiators had "very positive" responses to the separatist group's proposals and would consult Manila before making a decision, Othman said.

"There is some optimism that we can have an interim agreement before President Arroyo leaves office," he said. "It is not a comprehensive deal, but it is better than nothing. This is important for the process of building trust and preserving gains."

Officials have said a comprehensive peace deal is no longer possible under the current government given the time constraint.

Government officials and the rebels resumed talks in January after years of peace negotiations broke down in 2008 when the Philippine Supreme Court declared a preliminary pact unconstitutional.

This led to clashes that killed hundreds and displaced about 750,000 people. Fighting has subsided since last July, but about 100,000 people remain displaced, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

A Malaysian-led peacekeeping contingent — deployed until 2007 — returned to the region last week to help prevent clashes and bolster the peace talks. The monitors will be deployed in three southern cities to prevent any conflict from escalating.

The United States and Australia have backed the talks, fearing rebel strongholds could harbor al-Qaida-linked militants.

FAKE TUSKS
A Philippine Parks and Wildlife worker looks at fake elephant tusks at left which were used to replace stolen original tusks inside a storage room at the Parks and Wildlife office at Manila's Quezon city Wednesday March 3, 2010, in the Philippines. A Philippine wildlife officer is suspected of stealing more than 1,500 pounds (700 kilograms) of smuggled elephant tusks seized last year in an embarrassing setback for the country's anti-poaching efforts said Parks and Wildlife Director Theresa Mundita Lim. The stolen ivory worth $65,000 was part of of a 8,000-pound (4,000 kilograms) shipment of tusks that was impounded at Manila airport last July and turned over for disposal to the Government's Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau. The original tusks can be seen at right.

AP

Luzon, Mindanao still on power red alert—NGCP

By MICHELLE REMO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Despite reassurances by the government, power shortages in Luzon and Mindanao have further worsened as energy supply deficits soared to their highest levels in recent years. Both islands, as of Friday morning, have again been placed on red alert.

The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines said the electricity supply deficit in Luzon has reached 641 megawatts (MW) while that in Mindanao reached 700 MW. The Visayas grid posted supply reserves of 53 MW, but this was not enough to allow the grid to export power to Luzon.

"Barring the shutdown of any power generating plant, Visayas load customers will have uninterrupted power supply today [Friday]," the NGCP assured the public on Friday.

The NGCP reported that only AES Corp.'s 315-MW Masinloc Unit 1 in Zambales was expected to operate on Friday, while First Gas Power Corp.'s Sta. Rita Module 30 was still undergoing fuel oil recommissioning tests, as of the same day.

(By Friday morning, the Manila Electric Company announced one and a half hour rotational blackouts in Metro Manila and outlying service areas between 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. due to power supply deficiencies.)

In Mindanao, NGCP said that even with two major plants already operating, the limited available capacity of 751 MW would still be insufficient to meet the peak demand of 1,451 MW.

"These two plants, STEAG Power Inc.'s coal-fired plant and Aboitiz Power Corp.'s Therma Marine Unit 2, generated 210 MW and 47 MW respectively," NGCP said.

Meanwhile, the state-run National Power Corp.'s (Napocor) Iligan diesel -power plant has begun generating 30 MW.

The NGCP added that the hydro-electric power plants, which have been providing the bulk of Mindanao's power requirements, have had limited capabilities due to low water inflow to reservoirs.

Napocor's Agus power plants have a total available capacity of 65 MW out of the total rated capacity of 727 MW while the Pulangi plant, also owned by Napocor, has only 20 MW out of the total rated capacity of 255 MW.

NGCP said it would continue to monitor power grid conditions.

Immigration cops thwart human trafficking at NAIA

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) have foiled an attempt by an international human trafficking syndicate to smuggle illegal aliens to Canada, using Manila as a transit point.

Bureau of Immigration (BI)-Airport Operations Division director Ferdinand Sampol said the human trafficking operation was thwarted on Monday with the apprehension of the syndicate's courier and two of its victims at the NAIA.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan, said the interception of the victims and the arrest of their courier were the result of proper trainings and use of modern technology.

"This showed that our agency is capable of defeating any attempts by human trafficking syndicates to use the Philippines as their transit point in transporting illegal people," Libanan said.

Sampol, in a report to Libanan, identified the suspected courier of the syndicate as Joana Lee May Lin, a Singaporean, and her companions as Jeremy Lim Chee Siong and Jimmy Ong Lai Heng, both Chinese nationals.

Sampol said the three passengers were intercepted at the NAIA Terminal 2 before they could board a Philippine Airlines flight bound for Vancouver, Canada on March 1.

BI associate commissioner Enrique Galang presented the three aliens in a news conference at the agency's main office in Manila on Wednesday. He said Lim and Ong were initially apprehended for trying to leave the country using fraudulent Singaporean passports.

TAKE CHARGE

Money advice for new graduates

Question: I'm so excited! I'm all set to graduate this March from college and I'm looking forward to finally making my own money! I have a job waiting for me and although it's a very junior position, I know it will just be the start of a good stable career. I want to do so many things, like save up for a trip abroad, a new car, and maybe my own condo unit someday. Can you please give me tips on how I can handle my income well?—Lulu

Answer: You are blessed, Lulu, for having finished college and with a job waiting right after graduation, and for that we send you our heartfelt congratulations!

You seem to be going in the right direction, because not only have you asked us for financial advice this early, you have also identified your financial goals and have a positive mind set.

A lot of other students will be graduating from college this March and April. And since majority of them will be joining the work force (while the rest pursue further studies or other things), we are sharing the financial tips below on how fresh graduates like you can handle your earnings well.

1 Define your financial goals. What do you want to have in the future? Write down your goals and a general timetable so you can remind yourself of your goals later on. Some good goals are: having a car in three years' time, enrolling in graduate school in five years' time, establishing an emergency fund within a year. By having a timetable, your goals become more realistic and attainable.

2 Look for a job that will use your skills, give you room for growth, and will give you steady income enough to meet your needs and allow you to save. The job market is very competitive but that does not mean that you should grab the first job opportunity that comes by. Weigh the pros and cons of each job offer and choose wisely. If the job offer comes with additional benefits such as car plan, subsidy for further studies, and profit-sharing, that's even better.

3 Once you have a firm job offer, draft a budget to help you plan your monthly spending. With a new job, you will have a steady income coming in. Start by saving first (see next item below), then allot amounts for regular expenses such as food, transportation, clothing, and others. Live within your means.

4 Open a separate bank account for savings, different from your payroll account. This will be for your savings. Ideally, you should deposit money here regularly and make the money grow for future consumption. Ideally, too, you should take out the money meant for your savings (at least 10 percent of your income) as soon as you get your pay, so you won't be tempted to spend all of your income.

5 Save up for an emergency fund. Make this your priority for saving. Build up a fund equal to three to six months' worth of your expenses so that if anything happens-you lose your job or get sick-you can have a fund to dip into to help you in your day-to-day expenses. Don't touch this fund unless there's an emergency (thus the name). You can put this fund in a time deposit or money market account for easy access.

6 Once you have saved up enough money for an emergency fund, tackle your other savings goals. Save for that car or dream home in the future. Don't forget to start saving for a retirement fund because the earlier you do it, the better as compound interest will make your money earn even more without you doing anything. To give your savings a kick (in terms of growth), look into investing them in instruments or accounts that may give you more interest or yield than what a savings account may offer. Talk to your bank for more details.

7 Get insurance coverage. You'll never know what's going to happen, but it pays to be prepared always. Take out a life insurance policy if you have dependents. Buying life insurance while you are young also means paying for lower premiums. If your company does not give free health insurance, make sure you get one for yourself. With health care costs escalating and more so as you get older, it will do you good to have some form of coverage in place.

8 Read up on financial matters. Sharpen your financial IQ by reading more about personal finance and attending personal finance seminars. You can learn from experts to help you stay on the right track financially.

Good luck and we hope all your financial dreams come true.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Ruffa Gutierrez

Ruffa clears the air with scared Shaina

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Ruffa Gutierrez, once romantically linked to John Lloyd Cruz, has admitted that she talked with Shaina Magdayao about receiving "nasty" and "explicit" text messages initially thought to have come from the younger actress.

The 20-year-old Shaina is reportedly John Lloyd's current flame. Both Kapamilya contract artists have denied this.

Ruffa told Inquirer Entertainment that the meeting with Shaina, held in the ABS-CBN compound last week, was initiated by Star Magic heads Johnny Manahan and Mariole Alberto.

Quiet exchange

"They said it was best to sit down and talk before the issue got worse," Ruffa told writers in a gathering in Makati on Tuesday to launch Azure Urban Resort Residences. Ruffa said the exchange was "very calm, quiet but serious."

Ruffa related: "I heard Shaina was scared in the beginning. I said, 'Why? I don't bite.' We talked about a lot of things, which I do not want to share in detail anymore. Private na 'yon. What's important now is that we've cleared the air and there's no more reason for us to have any conflict."

She added it was possible that Shaina had an idea who the mysterious texter was.

Close to Vina

"It no longer matters, either, if I initially thought the messages came from Shaina. Now I know they didn't—that's what's important," the TV host said. "We all really have to be aware that, in this industry, there are people who want to hurt others, who want others to feel bad. We have to be very cautious."

The actress-TV host said she's glad the problem has been ironed out. "I'm very close to Vina (Morales, Shaina's eldest sister). She's my kumare. We've known each other since 'That's Entertainment.' I may not be as close to Shaina, but I'm very fond of the other members of her family."

Ruffa refused to discuss reports that she is leaving ABS-CBN to host a talk show in the newly reorganized TV5. "I will answer questions soon," she simply said.

However, Ruffa's mom and talent manager Annabelle Rama confirmed to Inquirer Entertainment that Ruffa received a "good offer" from TV5.

"Para sa akin, 'di kaya ng iba ang offer na ito, but we're not talking about contracts yet," Annabelle disclosed. She added that a press conference will be held on Friday about the new development.

Ruffa, 35, gamely talked about her two daughters' recent appearance on the Sunday gag show, "Goin' Bulilit." Said the proud mom of Lorin, 6, and Venice, 5, "The episode did so well in the ratings that the program wants to feature the two of them again." She added that the girls will appear on the gag show's March 7 episode.

"It's okay for them to do this once or twice a month during the summer, or as long as they maintain their grades and promise to be good girls," Ruffa explained. "This show is really good for them. They get to meet a lot of people their age."

Stage mom material

She added: "I try not to be a stage mom to them. I visited them on the set once and I couldn't control myself. Nag-feeling director ako. I felt ashamed, so I decided to just stay in the dressing room."

If she had her way, Ruffa said she would like her daughters to finish school before going into acting. "I want them to follow KC's (Concepcion) career path. I'd like them to get a degree from an Ivy League university. Posing for magazine covers and shooting for commercials are okay for now. They're having fun."

Ruffa said she follows a parenting technique that's different from that of her mom. "Don't get me wrong, I'm proud of how my mom raised us. Walang naligaw ng landas sa amin," she said. "As a mom, I want the girls to respect me but also be able to tell me their secrets, treat me like their barkada."

Why Marian's 'Darna' sidekick is at her beck and call offscreen

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A studio insider overheard Marian Rivera saying to some of her "Darna" co-stars that if they are nice to her, she will recommend that they be included in her next projects.

Roxanne Barcelo, who portrays Marian's sidekick in the telefantasya, apparently took the actress' word for it, so she is at the latter's beck and call.

"Nakakatawa si Roxanne. Talo pa niya PA at alalay ni Marian," revealed my source. "Sobrang asikaso niya si Marian. Like, if Marian is looking for her next outfit, natataranta siyang i-abot." Hopefully, Roxanne's efforts won't be in vain.

■ ■ ■ ■

Vicki Belo is planning to spend Holy Week in Maldives with her ex, Atom Henares and their kids Cristalle and Quark. They will also celebrate Cristalle's birthday there.

Is this part of her Lenten sacrifice—to stay away from Hayden Kho? She broke her promise to herself not to communicate with Hayden when she showed up at his hearing, to give him moral support.

At the press con she hosted for Belo Medical Group's new endorsers, Jennylyn Mercado and Valerie Concepcion, she unabashedly exclaimed, "I'm addicted to Hayden!" She's just being true to herself, which is one trait I really admire in her. Vicki keeps on loving people even at their most unlovable.

Guess list

The gay manager of a hunky actor confronted his ward's actress-GF. "'Di mo ba alam na matagal na kaming may relasyon?" he fumed. "Mabuti nang alam mo kung saan ka lulugar." The hapless GF was stunned! She must be extra-cautious as she ventures into troubled water and treads on charted territory.

A concert producer lamented, "Never will I get this performer for a show abroad. Mahirap siya ka-deal at bawal kausapin backstage. 'Di siya magaan katrabaho. Sobrang yabang. And the worst part is, nalugi pa ako, kasi di naman bongga ang ticket sales."

■ ■ ■ ■

Tin-Tin Bersola is savoring the joys of second-time motherhood, though she admits that she has to deal with "sibling rivalry."

"Anya would make lambing and tell Julius and I that puro na lang sa baby brother niya ang attention namin," she says. "That's normal because for five years siya lang ang star sa buhay namin. We hug her tight and I assure her by telling her that she will always be my No. 1 because she's the first baby I carried in my womb. She wants to carry her brother but we tell her to wait a while because he's still too delicate."

■ ■ ■ ■

Phil Younghusband's controversial ex-manager is often seen these days with Brazilian hunk Daniel Matsunaga. Rumor has it that Daniel is her new favorite and was handpicked by the female manager

Daniel Matsunaga

to replace Phil in a major international project and will also be the new celebrity endorser of several brands previously modeled by Phil.

Apparently, she is also supporting an all-Brazilian football team led by Daniel and is actually attending the matches.

■ ■ ■ ■

A lunar-powered friend of mine insists that John Lloyd Cruz and Shaina Magdayao drained the bar till the wee hours at Ride & Roll in Xavierville. (Or could that have been a case of mistaken identity?)

After working hard, they reward themselves by drinking harder. Nothing wrong with that because they've got their work done.

■ ■ ■ ■

Maui Taylor is overjoyed that the violation of municipal ordinance case filed against her, Jen Lee and Paolo Paraiso by Cebu Governor Gwendolyn Garcia has been dismissed.

"It had something to do with our show in Cebu last Holy Week," Mau says. "Gov. Garcia thought our show was too sexy for Semana Santa. But we were just wearing beach outfits since the show was held in Bantayan Island. We made a public apology addressed to her and she appointed Jen and me as Ambassadors of Women's Rights." Right on, Diyosa!

■ ■ ■ ■

Could it be true that "Starstruck" winners Diva Montelava and Sara Lahbati already have attitude problems? "Binubura nila ang makeup 'pag 'di nila gusto," laments a makeup artist. "Talo pa nila mga sikat na artista na kuntento naman sa makeup namin."

■ ■ ■ ■

Ronald Singson and Lovi Poe were spotted at the Waldorf Hotel in New York. They shopped till they dropped, we are told. The apple of each other's eyes had a blast in the Big Apple.

■ ■ ■ ■

Judy Ann Santos remains the face of Lactacyd while her heart is bent on conceiving her first-born. So she and hubby Ryan Agoncillo will go on a belated honeymoon. They will leave for abroad for a triple celebration: Ryan's birthday on April 10, their wedding anniversary on April 28 and her birthday on May 11. The cool couple will do a film about Our Lady of Peñafrancia under Direk Marilou Diaz Abaya. Judday and Ry are truly each other's best.

■ ■ ■ ■

There's a big possibility that Tita Cristy Fermin and DJ Mo will be working together. But since they are mortal enemies, there may be tension on the set. Being the professionals that they are, I'm sure they will find a way to co-exist even just on-cam.

■ ■ ■ ■

The talent-reality show "Pilipinas Got Talent" (Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 8:30 p.m.), hosted by Billy Crawford and Luis Manzano, kicked off last Saturday on ABS-CBN. Catch the funny moments and unseen footage in the talent-reality show with Marc Abaya in "Pilipinas Got More Talent," weekdays, 4:30 p.m.

The grand winner will take home P2 million. But every hopeful must first be able to impress at least two members of the panel of judges—Kris Aquino, Ai Ai de las Alas and former ABS-CBN president and COO Freddie M. Garcia a.k.a. FMG. Show up and Show off. Pinoys be proud and loud!

■ ■ ■ ■

Christine Jacob-Sandejas looks like she's taking the segurista route. She once told me that feeding her son Luis sometimes turns into a challenge, so she and her husband Paco asked their pedia to be sure. He suggested the number one recommended nutritional supplement for Hard-to-Feed kids, and Christine tells me that she has definitely seen the difference.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Whom do you trust?

If it were not the reputable Readers Digest, I would have said that the survey on the most, and the least, trusted among very well known personalities in the Philippines was very naughty. The timing is perfect, not just that the presidential race is heating up in all directions, but just after the Villar camp comes up with survey results claiming that he has a trust rating higher than Noynoy Aquino.

Well, lo and behold, find out who Filipinos trust in the first ever Asian Reader's Digest Trust Poll. Using 80 influential Filipino personalities as their subjects, the survey rated which persons and professions enjoyed the people's trust, or earned their distrust. From high scores of "Trust completely" to low ratings of "Don't trust at all," the survey affirms what most of us already know. And a few surprises to boot.

It made a lot of sense that Rosa Rosal topped the survey, having had a good base of admirers as an actress and then moving on with dedication and consistency on a life-long humanitarian mission. The people's trust on number two most trusted, Lea Salonga, surprised but totally pleased me. I do not know the superstar personally but had been a long-time admirer. As those who survey said, Lea embodies to them both the beauty and strength of the Filipino.

Jessica Soho of GMA 7 took third spot, another pleasant development for me. Because my wife and I have been in and around political dynamics and personalities off and on in the last 30 years, Jessica and her courage and integrity are quite known to us. I congratulate her, but congratulate more the respondents who appreciate quality reporting when they see one. The common comment about Jessica, "She is impartial whenever she tackles news."

And now, to the most important to me and to many who have been inspired by him toward service to the poor, towards sacrifice and heroism as sought-after virtues, is the most popular Filipino male today—Tony Meloto of Gawad Kalinga. Tony leads thousands of volunteers like me to refocus on our priorities and to take second and third looks at the poor—and then embrace them, their pain, and their hopes. And it is not just Filipinos in the Philippines but many others in America, Europe and Asia who are inspired by Tony and driven to work for a future full of hope. Survey respondents say that "Tony Meloto puts in tireless efforts to uplift the lives of less fortunate citizens."

It seems that when blessings come, they can be as abundant as rain. Thrilled by the appreciation of Filipinos on both a work and the man who began Gawad Kalinga, I am given a double dose of happiness and inspiration when Noynoy Aquino is judged by the respondents of the Reader's Digest Trust Poll as the second most trusted Filipino despite his being in a profession that is one of the most distrusted. Having stated again and again that the central issue of politics in the Philippines today is corruption, and that all other issues are deliberate attempts to sidestep a frontal focus on society's most deadly cancer, I am happy to note that the people's choice of Noynoy as the most trusted of politicians affirms the same thing.

Glimpses

By JOSE MA. MONTELIBANO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Just having read the day before as the headlines of one major daily that Villar was the more trusted than Noynoy Aquino, an allegation that I know is backed up by statistics from Pulse Asia, it was like a breath of fresh air to know about the Reader's Digest Trust Poll and the results showing Noynoy as the second most trusted Filipino male today, next to Tony Meloto. The numbers showing Villar is more trusted than Noynoy Aquino is particularly strange. I wonder what the context of that was, what particular questions were asked and answers given to have justified a statement that Villar beats Aquino in trust ratings.

In the Reader's Digest Trust Poll where Villar is in 60th place in a field of 80 known personalities, it shows that the respondents view Villar with more distrust than trust. Then, for the claim that Pulse Asia had placed Villar as more trusted than Noynoy who placed 5th overall and number two most trusted Filipino male in the Reader's Digest survey, I can only come up with the conclusion that 1) the more trusted rating of Villar over Noynoy had a context that was not properly explained, or 2) the poor who know Villar mostly through his TV commercials have a very different, or fickle, view of political personalities. After all, they had preferred Noynoy over Villar from September until his lead was cut to two percentage points by end-January 2010.

The poll to measure trust by Reader's Digest was not limited to the Philippines but included Hong Kong, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Singapore. Of course, since the survey results favored Noynoy, I expected the usual snide remarks of supporters of other presidential candidates—and they accommodated my expectations. After all, it is in the nature of the partisan to do so. Worse, it is the obligation of the guns-for-hire to play down or discredit Reader's Digest. However, they think too highly of themselves when they pit their own credibility, which is close to nil, versus the well-earned respect for Reader's Digest.

What can be particularly galling for the anti-Noynoy partisans is that the least trusted profession produced one of the most trusted person in Noynoy Aquino, and that Noynoy is the only politician in the top five of the most trusted in all the Asian countries who were part of the survey. Imagine, the only politician who made it to the top five among the most trusted! And to make matters worse for Noynoy and Cory bashers, Filipinos picked Noynoy among their most trusted because they believed that he would follow in his mother's footsteps. Legacy is very important to Filipinos, except to those who have no reason to be proud of their parents.

The story of the most trusted is also the story of the most distrusted. But I can reserve that for another day.

EDITORIAL

Intolerance

In the eyes of some Catholic bishops, Health Secretary Esperanza Cabral has committed a crime worse than the Maguindanao massacre, a sin deadlier than the election fraud that marred the 2004 presidential vote. She has distributed free condoms.

Bishops who were not heard from after the gruesome massacre hit the news, or kept quiet after President Macapagal-Arroyo gave her infamous "I am sorry" speech, have attacked Cabral for abetting immorality, if not being immoral herself.

"It is immoral for a government official to support the distribution of condoms which we know do not really reduce or stop the spread of HIV-AIDS," Archbishop of Lipa Ramon Arguelles said in a radio interview. Marbel Bishop Dinualdo Gutierrez raised the stakes, calling on Cabral to resign. "First, she does not respect the big number of Catholics in the country who oppose the distribution of condoms. Second, is she Catholic? I doubt that she is. Because if you are a Catholic and in the government, you should be living the teachings of the Church. But she is doing the opposite."

The two good bishops are not only being uncharitable (by refusing to understand Cabral on her own terms, or denying her even the consolation of good intentions); they are also being mentally dishonest. Do we "know," as a matter of fact, that condoms do not "reduce or stop the spread of HIV-AIDS"? The best we can say is that each side has statistics to back its stand. Is Cabral, in fact, arguing that condoms are the only means, or even the best means, to stop the spread of the dreaded disease? The Department of Health has patiently explained that its strategy for stopping the deadly spread is three-pronged, summed up in the acronym ABC: A for abstention from sex, B for being faithful to one's partner, C for use of condoms. Has the Church, in fact, learned to adjust its arguments by factoring in popularity? With equal precision, Cabral can point to "the big number of Catholics in the country" who are open to the idea of condom use to stop the spread of HIV-AIDS. The vehemence of the good bishops' tirade against Cabral is shocking, to Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

We understand where the bishops are coming from. The Catholic Church considers all acts "to render procreation impossible" (such as, for example, the use of condoms) intrinsically evil, a teaching that took its present shape over 40 years ago, with "Humanae Vitae." But even if all Filipino Catholics were to accept that teaching in full, it is still "only" a religious teaching; it cannot be used to decide state affairs.

The problem with the intolerant attitude of the two good bishops is that, as far as contraception is concerned, they want Catholic doctrine to effectively dictate government policy.

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Knives and beauty queens in the 1970s

Pope Paul VI, dubbed the "Pilgrim Pope," visited the Philippines in November 1970 and survived an assassination attempt upon his arrival at the Manila International Airport. Disguised as a cleric, Bolivian painter Benjamin Mendoza attacked the Pope with a knife. Vatican news said one of the bishops pushed him away, but another version of the story said President Ferdinand Marcos delivered a timely karate chop that saved the Pope's life. Mendoza later claimed he meant no harm, that his act was merely "symbolic," but the knife hit its mark and would have been fatal if not for a neck brace hidden in the Pope's robes.

In December 1972, Imelda Marcos also survived an attack from a knife-wielding man. Gunned down by presidential security, the would-be assassin's motive will never be known.

Films in the 1970s were forgettable porn known as "bomba." In 1975 one of the most violent boxing matches in history was held in the Araneta Coliseum between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier. It was dubbed as the "The Thrilla in Manila."

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Beauty dominated the decade which opened with Aurora Pijuan being crowned Miss International in 1970 and closed with Melanie Marquez winning the same title in 1979. Margie Moran was crowned Miss Universe in Athens in 1973, and Manila played host to the Miss Universe Pageant in 1974. Aside from the Folk Arts Theater, other structures rose on the reclaimed Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in response to international events: the Philippine International Convention Center, Manila Film Center, Philippine Plaza Hotel and Coconut Palace. A construction boom would change the skyline, especially in Makati, a former swampland that replaced Escolta as the nation's commercial and business district.

Student unrest that began in the late 1960s spilled into the first years of the 1970s. Police dispersed the crowds with truncheons and tear gas and the protesters retaliated or provoked the government forces by hurling invectives, rocks and home-made explosives called pill-boxes and Molotov cocktails. A running battle on the street leading to Malacañang was called the Battle of Mendiola. Once, the students commandeered a fire truck and rammed it into one of the Palace gates, marking the first in a series of events now remembered as the First Quarter Storm. Kabataang Makabayan (KM) gained prominence over older university associations, fraternities and sororities with Greek-letter names.

Marcos began his second term as president in 1969 and was barred by the Constitution from seeking a third term in 1973. But opportunity appeared when the Constitutional Convention opened in 1971. Carlos P. Garcia, elected president of the convention, died of a heart attack and was replaced by another former president, Diosdado Macapagal. Scandal marred the drafting of a new constitution. Eduardo Quintero, a delegate from Leyte, hometown of Imelda Marcos, claimed that delegates received cash bribes to ensure that Marcos could run for a third term as president.

On Aug. 21, 1971, an explosion ripped through a Liberal Party rally in Plaza Miranda, leaving the political opposition literally in shambles. Marcos was quick to blame the communists for the attack, and reacted by suspending the writ of habeas corpus. He claimed the state was being threatened by economic and political instability, student unrest, communist insurgency in Luzon and Muslim secessionists from the South. The setting for martial law was in place.

Marcos signed Proclamation 1081 placing the Philippines under martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, but it was not implemented till two days later, following a staged ambush on the secretary of national defense whose bullet-riddled car was shown to media. There were no radio or TV broadcasts on the morning of Sept. 23, and the eerie silence was broken by a TV announcement by Marcos that martial law had been declared to preserved the Republic. Congress and media outfits were closed, opposition politicians and critics of the government from media and academe were arrested and detained in military camps. Curfew was in place at night, reducing crime and the activities of philandering husbands. A New Society, a Bagong Lipunan, was born pushing many popular programs like "Green Revolution" and "Balikbayan." The first of many slogans of the period was "Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan."

In 1974 a Japanese straggler, Hiroo Onoda, was found hiding on Lubang Island. He did not know that Japan surrendered in 1945, ending World War II.

In 1971 a worldwide sensation followed the discovery in a Mindanao rainforest of a long-lost Stone Age people called the Tasaday, which was later exposed as a hoax.

Elections were held in 1978 for an Interim Batasang Pambansa, with a landslide win for the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan led by Imelda Marcos that won all 21 seats representing Metro Manila against the opposition Lakas ng Bayan led by Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino who campaigned from his prison cell. Despite a noise barrage on the eve of the elections, Marcos was sworn in as prime minister and Imelda was given a Cabinet portfolio as minister of human settlements.

Such were the high and low points in Philippine history during the 1970s.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

AGRICULTURE SUMMIT
Sixto Igesomar presents opportunities in Commerce through Agriculture during the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Agriculture Summit held on March 3, 2010 at the Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort. Also in the photo, from left to right, are Sen. Ralph Torres, Tom Camacho and businessman Anthony Pellegrino.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDICAL MISSION
The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ (4th watch) conducts a mini-medical mission that included a free massage/reflex and haircut. Everyone were provided free blood sugar checkup, blood pressure checkup, and eye checkup, plus a bag of goodies. The church conducts a medical mission every October.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy, happy birthday to Grace Eun Hye Ji aka Korean Empress! May you have a blessed day, week, monthlong celebration! Much love coming from your entire Marpac family, and your close friends Faerie Queene, Island Warrior Princess, Teal Goddess, Graceful Saint, and the Golden Phoenix.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ROTA VISIT
The Center for Living Independently-CNMI on Saipan pays a courtesy visit on the Rota Mayor's Office during their Feb. 26, 2010, visit to the island. Photo shows, from left, Tom Quitugua, Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, CLI-CNMI board vice president Jose Sablan, board secretary Janice Sablan, and CLI-CNMI executive director Lydia D. Igitol.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROFESSIONALISM AWARDEE
Members of this year's Marianas High School mock trial team pose for a souvenir photo after bagging the competition's first ever Professionalism Award given by the organizer. The team is composed of Kassandra Marquez, Christian Cruz, Jot Samonte, Rachel Cabrera, Darren Demapan, Deveney Dela Cruz, Kimberly Kim, Mark Echaure, Marianne Camacho, Dowen Jocson, Kathleen Basa, and Don Cohen.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

INDIVIDUAL AWARDEES
Individual awardees in the 12th Annual CNMI Mock Trial Competition pose with the event's coordinator and sponsor during a banquet ceremony held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa. From left are Marianas High School's Christian Cruz who was the competition's best prosecution witness; MBA's Yong Hwa Choi and Dong Hee Lee who won the best prosecuting and best defense attorneys; Mount Carmel School's Anastasia Schweiger, who won the best defense witness; event coordinator Daniel C. Stafford; and IT&E's Brad Ruszala.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS
WSR Elementary School's Science Fair winners (lower grade and upper grade) pose with first grade teachers who were the organizers of the event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

US survey finds sharp drop in children's bullying

DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—There's been a sharp drop in the percentage of America's children being bullied or beaten up by their peers, according to a new national survey by experts who believe anti-bullying programs are having an impact.

The study, funded by the U.S. Department of Justice, found that the percentage of children who reported being physically bullied over the past year had declined from nearly 22 percent in 2003 to under 15 percent in 2008. The percentage reporting they'd been assaulted by other youths, including their siblings, dropped from 45 percent to 38.4 percent.

The lead author of the study, Professor David Finkelhor, said he was "very encouraged."

"Bullying is the foundation on which a lot of subsequent aggressive behavior gets built," said Finkelhor, director of the University of New Hampshire's Crimes Against Children Research Center. "If it's going down, we will reap benefits in the future in the form of lower rates of violent crime and spousal assault."

Finkelhor noted that anti-bullying programs had proliferated and received funding boosts following the 1999 Columbine High School shootings in Colorado.

"There is evidence these programs are effective," he said. "I wouldn't be surprised if we're seeing the fruits of that."

One of the largest of these initiatives is the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which has been implemented in several thousand U.S. schools. It is a comprehensive program that includes forming an anti-bullying committee, training staff to intervene immediately if they observe bullying and meeting with students and parents when problems occur.

Marlene Snyder, of Clemson University's Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life, who is director of development for Olweus, said the survey was heartening to those in the anti-bullying field but not cause for complacency.

"The decline is not happening everywhere," she said. "It's in schools where adults really understand how detrimental this conduct can be and have made a conscious effort to bring these numbers down."

The findings by Finkelhor and his co-authors were based on two national surveys of children ages 2 to 17 conducted five years apart — the first in 2003, involving 2,030 children, and the second in 2008, asking the same questions of 4,046 children. The findings were published this week in the Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine.

Children aged 10-17 were interviewed directly about various forms of violence and victimization they had experienced. In the cases of children under 10, parents or other caregivers were interviewed.

The researchers said the biggest declines in the various forms of violence and bullying were among children from low-income households.

Along with bullying and assaults by peers or siblings, the new study also found declines in several other forms of child victimization, including sexual assaults and emotional abuse by caregivers. It found slight increases in dating violence, robbery targeting children and the witnessing of violence among other family members.

The survey did not specifically address the bullying of young people for reasons related to sexual orientation, which gay-rights groups consider to be a pervasive problem. The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network said its research indicates this type of harassment remained stable between 2001 and 2007.

Overall, the findings by Finkelhor and his co-authors were positive — and came on the heels of a major federal study documenting an unprecedented decrease in incidents of serious child abuse. That report, the National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, found that incidents of serious physical, sexual or emotional abuse dropped by 26 percent from 1993 to 2005-06.

Kids Health Matters

Peanut allergies

Life-threatening responses can occur within minutes of exposure to peanuts and peanut proteins, and usually appear in a child's first years.

Risk factors

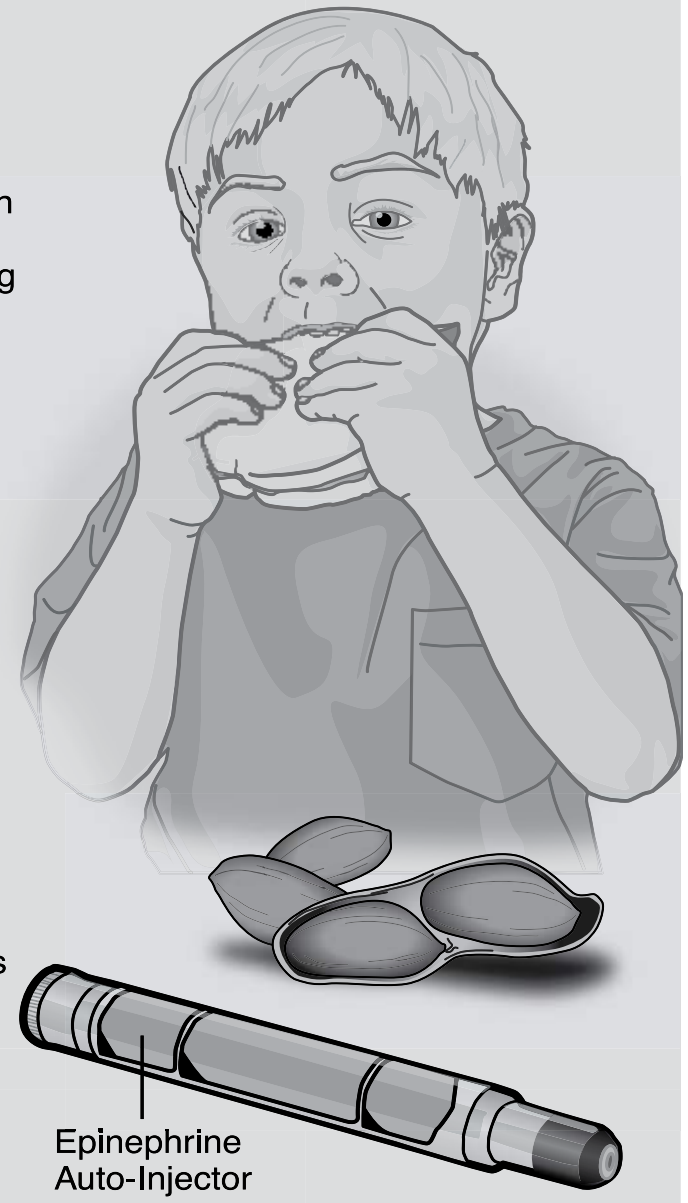
Family members with allergies, especially food allergies, or a past allergy to peanuts; unknown why incidence of peanut allergy is steadily increasing

Symptoms

- Hives, redness or swelling on skin
- Itching, tingling around mouth, throat
- Digestive problems
- Tightening of chest, shortness of breath
- Runny, stuffy nose
- Anaphylaxis, a severe emergency

Treatment

- Avoid peanuts; read food labels, ask at restaurants, do not taste unknown foods
- Antihistamines reduce mild symptoms
- Injection of epinephrine, emergency room visit for anaphylactic reaction



Source: Mayo Clinic
Graphic: Angela Smith, Garrick Gibson

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Try this!

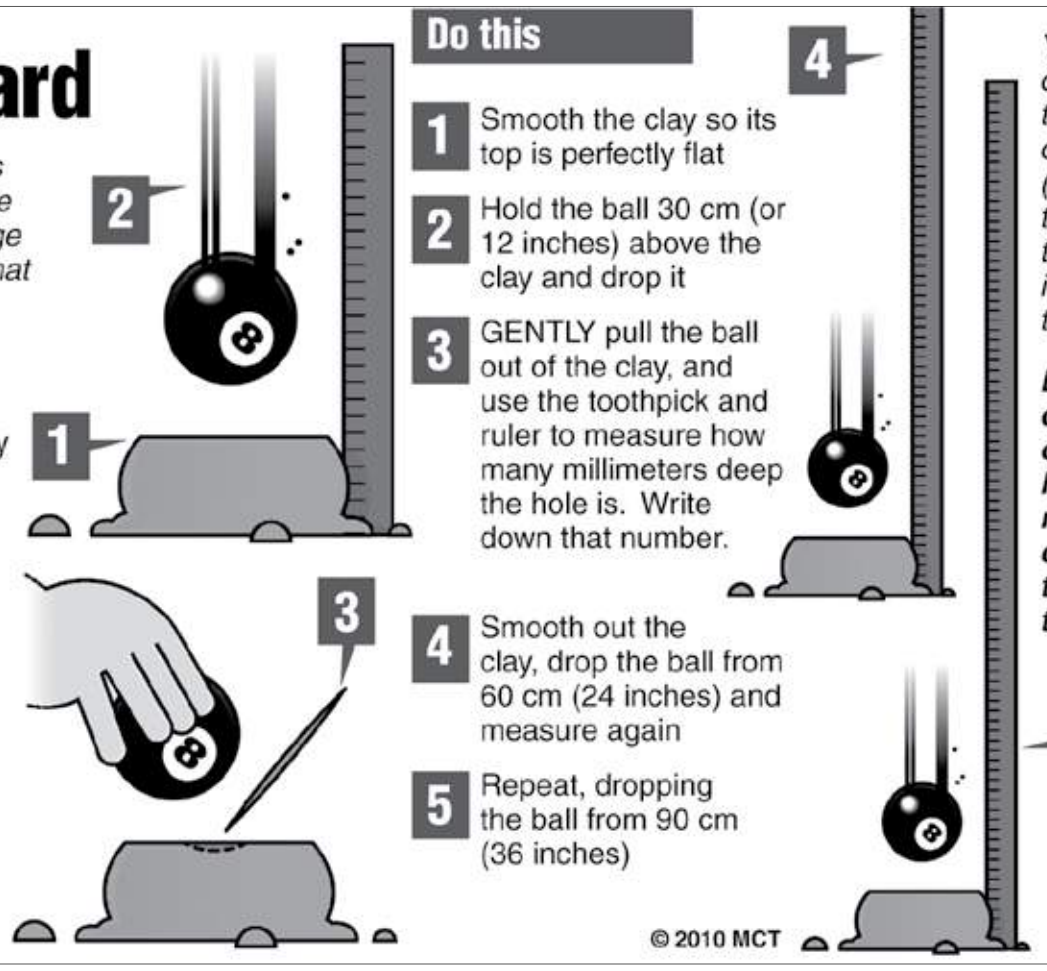
Source: "E = mc2: A Biography of the World's Most Famous Equation" by David Bodanis
Graphic: Paul Trap

Hitting hard

A Dutch scientist did this famous experiment in the 1700s and helped change people's minds about what "energy" is.

You'll need

- ☐ Lump of modeling clay as big as an orange
- ☐ A smooth, heavy ball, such as:
  - Billiard (pool) ball
  - Croquet ball
  - Large ball bearing
  - Boccie ball
- ☐ Ruler marked in millimeters
- ☐ Small stick
- ☐ Meter or yard stick



Do this

1. Smooth the clay so its top is perfectly flat
2. Hold the ball 30 cm (or 12 inches) above the clay and drop it
3. GENTLY pull the ball out of the clay, and use the toothpick and ruler to measure how many millimeters deep the hole is. Write down that number.
4. Smooth out the clay, drop the ball from 60 cm (24 inches) and measure again
5. Repeat, dropping the ball from 90 cm (36 inches)

You doubled the height of the ball (from 30 to 60 cm), then tripled it (from 30 to 90)

Did the depth of the hole it made double, then triple?

WHAT HAPPENED

No, the hole got about four, then nine times deeper

Double the height of the ball, and it has four times as much energy, not two

Two "squared" (multiplied by itself) equals 4 **2x2=4**

Triple the height, and it lands nine times as hard

Three "squared" equals 9 **3x3=9**

In the 1700s, they thought that increasing something's speed increased its "energy" by the same amount

This experiment showed that ***energy is the square of speed***

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Riddle Card

1. Why is coffee like a dull axe?
2. What vine produces meat?
3. Where does Friday come before Thursday?
4. When is a wall like a fish?
5. Can you spell annoy with only one letter?

Answers: 1. Both must be ground before using. 2. Bovine. 3. In the dictionary. 4. When it is scaled. 5. T's (Tease).

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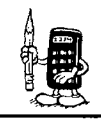
SEE IF YOU CAN make this math expression correct by adding two plus signs and two minus signs between certain numbers.

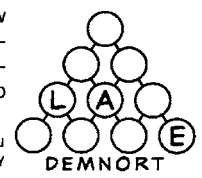
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 = 100



Answer 123 + 45 - 67 + 8 - 9 = 100.

Illustrated by David Coulson

CHAIN REACTION! Take the seven letters printed below our diagram and place them in the circles so that eight four-letter words can be read, top to bottom, along the connecting lines. All the words will begin with the letter in the top circle.



Answers: Top to bottom, left to right: Meld, melt, meat, mean, moat, moan, morn, more

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

FIND THE BIG WORDS!

1.	E							E
2.		E					E	
3.			E			E		
4.				E	E			
5.				E	E			
6.			E			E		
7.		E					E	
8.	E							E

Using the definitions and the anagrams below, you must find the eight eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:	ANAGRAM:
1. A flat container.	pole + even
2. Straight, direct courses.	lies + been
3. The biggest wrestler.	fees + bite
4. Lurched while in motion.	race + need
5. To deprive of strength.	been + feel
6. What everyone loves.	seer + beef
7. Evaded an obligation	sale + weed
8. To make longer.	gone + tale

Answers: 1. Envelope. 2. Beelines. 3. Beefiest. 4. Careened. 5. Enfeeble. 6. Freebees. 7. Weaseled. 8. Elongate.

Treating a cut paw

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My dog "Bart" came inside from being in the backyard today and was limping a bit. I checked his paw, and it looks like he has a small cut on one of the pads. I'm not sure from where, but there is still a bit of ice and snow around the edges of the yard. I disinfected the cut, but I'm not sure what to do next—a Band-Aid, perhaps?—Worried in Burlington, Vt.

DEAR WORRIED: A light gauze bandage, wrapped around the paw and taped in place, will protect Bart's paw while the cut heals. Don't wrap or tape so tightly that the circulation to the paw is affected —you just want to cover the cut.

Check the bandage daily and replace when it becomes damp or dirty (which, if Bart likes going outside, may be daily). If your dog licks or tries to chew away the bandage, pick up a cone-style or Elizabethan-style protective collar at the pet store, or from Bart's veterinarian.

If Bart's limp does not improve within about three days or the cut does not appear to be healing, take him to the vet to have the injury evaluated. Likewise if his paw becomes swollen.

Meantime, head outside and try to get rid of sharp-looking ice patches, if possible. Remove any debris from Bart's run area and pick up any dog feces to reduce the chance of infection in his injured paw (or if he injures his footpads again for whatever reason).

■ ■ ■

Send your pet questions to Sam Mazzotta at ask@pawscorner.com, or write to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475. And find more pet resources at PawsCorner.com.

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A gold-medal way to start the day

As I watched the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics on television, I was inspired by the discipline and commitment of the world's greatest athletes. While these skiers, skaters and the like have professional trainers supporting them to do their best, we parents can be "coaches" for our families as we create our own goals for a healthy and active lifestyle.

First, declare that it's time to get into shape! Here are some ideas to get you started:

Have a gold-medal way to start the day. Just like the athletes, you can have your own morning "training table" in a snap with this tasty medley.

In a serving-size bowl, let your kids make a base layer of sliced bananas. Spread cottage cheese over the bananas, and then scatter nuts or granola. Add a layer of fresh fruit, such as blueberries, raspberries, chopped apple, sliced strawberries or kiwi, and a large spoonful of your favorite yogurt. Garnish with a whole strawberry.

Enjoy with whole-grain toast on the side.

Tip: Make an extra portion and toss it all in the blender the following morning with some fruit juice for an easy-to-prepare smoothie.

Get in shape together. Make it a habit to take walks in the neighborhood. When the weekend comes around, find an easy-to-follow nature trail and let your children be the guides. Follow your energetic leaders, and let their curiosity set the pace.

Drink water. When you take a break from your activities, water is the easiest way to quench your thirst. Those times when you opt for a flavored beverage, avoid commercial drinks high in sugar. Instead, mix fruit concentrates or freshly squeezed citrus juice with sparkling water for a healthy energy boost.

Mark you progress. Make a record of your family fitness activities on a large sheet of poster board you hang on your kitchen wall. Across the top, list your favorite family activities, such as walking, skating, skiing, jogging, swimming, etc. Each time you enjoy an outdoor adventure, write the date and any memorable anecdotes under the appropriate column. At the end of a month or two, you'll have a visual record of your family's activities as a reminder that family fitness is fun!

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was longtime U.S. Congressman from Minnesota Eugene J. McCarthy who made the following sage observation: "It is dangerous for a national candidate to say things that people might remember."

■ You may not be surprised to learn that the portions offered in fast-food restaurants have increased in size during the past few decades, but you may find the amount of the increase to be shocking: Portions are now anywhere from two to *five* times as large as they were in 1980.

■ Because fortunetelling is considered to be a form of witchcraft in Australia, psychic readings are illegal Down Under.

■ Talk about a serious typo: In 2008, the Chilean mint issued thousands of copies of a coin with the country's name spelled "Chiie" instead of "Chile."

■ Tibet is the only country in the world whose national flag is not in the shape of a rectangle.

■ In December of 1811, parts of the Mississippi River flowed backward due to an earthquake in the region.

■ A survey of elementary-school kids reveals that 66 percent of youngsters think that glasses make a person look smarter, while 57 percent think people who wear glasses look more honest.

■ The world's longest-lasting light bulb, which can be found in a fire station in Livermore, Calif., has been in use for 107 years. Experts say that the bulb's extremely low wattage and the fact that it is rarely turned on and off have contributed to its longevity.

■ The world's most filmed story is "Cinderella," followed by "Hamlet."

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "The reason that fiction is more interesting than any other form of literature, to those who really like to study people, is that in fiction the author can really tell the truth without humiliating himself."—Jim Rohn

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MAGIC MAZE ● SOME OTHER TIME

A R L J H F D B Z X V T R Q O
M K A B R A E Y T X E N I H F
W E D E K B R Z B Y W V T R Q
F O N F Y C T E O D N L K I H
U P R O C R A S T I N A T E Y
T F D R G C E B A F L A T E R
U A Z E O Y X T H P A W Y V O
R U S R Q M B O S S E E N B T
E T A D T S O P M E A H R K S
J I Y A D R E T S E Y L T E I
H F E D B D R A W R E T F A H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Afterward	Flashback	Next year	Tomorrow
Before	Future	Postdate	Yesterday
By-and-by	Hereafter	Procrastinate	Yesteryear
Bygone	History	The past	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		+		27
÷		x		÷	
	+		x		18
x		–		x	
	x		+		21
21		20		27	

1 2 3 3 4 6 7 8 9

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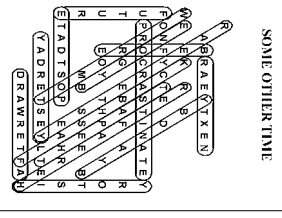
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	27		20		21
21	9	+	4	x	3
	x		–		x
18	2	x	8	+	1
	÷		x		÷
27	6	+	3	x	7

Life & Style

Gifts, parties and celebs: L.A. readies for Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hollywood is in full-on Oscar mode.

The red carpet has been laid out in front of the Kodak Theatre, topped with a plastic sheet in case of rain. Traffic is snarled. Tourists are flocking to Hollywood & Highland to see a bit of the Academy Awards preparations and snap photos of themselves with giant Oscar statues.

The theater itself buzzes with activity, as rehearsals continue from morning until night, with the occasional celebrity quietly stepping in to practice presenting the coveted golden guy.

It's Oscar week, and Tinseltown is all aflutter. Here's the latest:

FANCY FOODS

The Academy Awards Governors Ball will be set in an art-deco nightclub drenched in bronze and purple, from the tablecloths and napkins to the custom-made outfits on the wait staff and orchestra.

"It will be a very, very grand, elegant evening," says Cheryl Cecchetto, producer of the official Oscars after-party, held at Hollywood & Highland's grand ballroom.

Chef Wolfgang Puck is preparing dinner for the ball's 4,600 guests, and he gave the press a preview Thursday of what's on the menu.

There are bite-size Kobe beef burgers, topped with tomatoes and pickles so tiny that a chef used tweezers to artfully assemble each appetizer. Guests can also nibble on ahi tuna cones and Oscar-shaped smoked salmon finished with caviar before the main course: "A twist on the old classic chicken pot pie," Puck says.

For dessert there will be chocolate Oscars of all sizes, along with various cakes and fancy pastries.

It will take more than 300 chefs and 600 waiters to serve the post-show meal.

"Preparations are going fantastic," Puck says. "We are ready."

The custom-made outfits for the Governors Ball wait staff and all-female orchestra are new this year, designed by Jeffrey Kurland, governor of the academy's art directors' branch and an Oscar-nominated costume designer.

Also new this year: A special engraving area where Oscar winners can have their names affixed to their just-won statuettes, which are marked only by a serial number when they're presented on stage.

AN OSCAR EDUCATION

Oscar nominee Carey Mulligan already knows what it's like to stand on the Kodak Theatre stage.

The 25-year-old star of "An Education" came to the theater Thursday to practice presenting on the big show. Wearing a blond pixie haircut, a black blazer and slacks, Mulligan was surrounded by stand-ins posing as presenters and winners. She ran through her lines, passed out prop Oscars, then disappeared through one of the theater's back doors.

RED CARPET, GREEN DRESS

Most women attending the Academy Awards choose their dress weeks in advance and keep it a secret until the big day.

James Cameron's wife, Suzy Amis Cameron, started looking for her dress more than a year ago and she showed it off on a mannequin at a party Wednesday night.

Suzy Cameron held an eco-dress design contest to raise funds for Muse Elementary, the eco-friendly school she founded in Los Angeles. She unveiled the winning dress and its designer, 21-year-old Michigan State senior Jillian Granz, at environmental organization Global Green USA's seventh annual pre-Oscar party.

The long, flowing gown is made almost entirely from sustainable materials. It's one shouldered, with a big slit up the side, and it's "Avatar" blue.

"Suzy likes blue," said James Cameron, an Oscar nominee for best director and best picture for "Avatar," which features a blue humanoid species living on a faraway moon called Pandora.

Cameron said it was just a coincidence that the eco-friendly message of his film echoes the message of his wife's gown and the eco-friendly school it's supporting.

"We have the same value system," he said. "We believe that it's absolutely critical for us to live sustainably."

Other celebrities attending Global Green's annual pre-Oscar call for increased environmental awareness included David Duchovny and Jessica Alba.

MIRRORS EVERYWHERE

Instead of returning to their seats after presenting or accepting an Academy Award, Oscar's stars might opt to relax in the Architectural Digest green room backstage at the Kodak Theatre, where they can have a drink, watch the show on a flat-screen TV and check their reflection in multiple mirrors.

Interior designer Roger Thomas, who is responsible for the look of the Wynn hotels, says Oscar's green room was inspired by Hollywood's golden age. Black lacquer furniture is trimmed in shades of cream and white, flanked by end tables topped with orchid plants and oversized crystals. An outdoor garden space connected to the green room provides celebrity smokers with a private, covered place to light up. The floor inside is splattered with paint, like one might find in the art department on a studio lot. And there are mirrors everywhere.

Besides creating light and reflection inside the room, ample mirrors allow stars stepping onto Oscar's worldwide stage to see themselves from every angle.

"You feel your best when you look your best," Thomas says.

Maybe that's why there's also a makeup chair right outside the green room.

Sarah Palin loads up on free stuff at gift suite

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Sarah Palin showed up at a celebrity gift suite with two daughters, her brother and a small entourage in tow and loaded up with free cosmetic and fashion items being given away in connection with Oscar-week festivities. But she also left a check for charity, organizers say.

Lorna Khoo of Cardstore.com and various other vendors exhibiting their wares at the Silver Spoon gift suite said the former vice presidential candidate visited the suite on Wednesday morning and snapped up organic soaps from Wembe, personalized stationery from Cardstore.com, leopard-print wedge sandals from Bandals, and a slinky robe from Jenna Leigh lingerie.

"I gave the same robe to Jennifer Aniston," said Jenna Leigh, the designer whose label bears her name.

The 46-year-old politician, who was in town to perform a standup routine on Jay Leno's "Tonight" show, also picked up under-eye cream and a deep moisturizer from Bloom cosmetics, according to those present.

"She has great skin," gushed a Bloom rep.

Silver Spoon spokesman Ben Russo said Palin made an unspecified "sizable contribution" to Red Cross Haitian relief before leaving the suite. Although Silver Spoon is not affiliated with the Red Cross, most Hollywood gift suites feature an opportunity for visitors to donate to a charity, if desired.

"Silver Spoon was very grateful (Palin) brought awareness to our Red Cross relief effort," said Russo. "We were happy to supply her and her family with some of our sponsor product." Gift suites spring up all over town during Hollywood's award season, offering free merchandise to any celebrities who happen to drop by in exchange for the promotional value their star power brings.

AP

In this image released by NBC, former Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin is shown along with with host Jay Leno, left, on "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno," Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in Burbank, Calif.

Coins from Alexander the Great found in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—More than 250 silver coins dating back to the time of Alexander the Great were unearthed in northern Syria, a Syrian archaeologist said Thursday.

Youssef Kanjo, the head of archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Aleppo, said the coins were discovered two weeks ago in northern Syria when a local man was digging the foundations of his new home.

The man handed the coins, that were found in a bronze box, to authorities, Kanjo said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The coins date from the Hellenic period, which ranges from 4th to the 1st centuries B.C. after Macedonian warrior-king Alexander the Great spread Greek culture into Middle East and beyond with his conquests.

Kanjo added that the box contained two groups of coins, 137 "tetra" drachmas (four drachmas) and 115 single drachma coins.

One side of the tetra drachma coins depicts Alexander the Great, while the other side shows the Greek god Zeus sitting on a throne with an eagle perched on his extended arm. Some of the coins bear the inscription King Alexander in Greek, while others say Alexander or carry the name of King Philip, most likely referring to his father.

After Alexander the Great's conquests, many of the successor kingdoms in the Middle East adopted drachmas as their currency.

"The discovery is extremely important and would be added to our archaeological treasures that date back to the Hellenic era," Kanjo said.

AP

In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, Hellenistic coins dating back to the era of Alexander the Great are seen after they were discovered in northern Syria, the head of the archaeological excavation department in the Aleppo province said Thursday, March 4, 2010.

Naomi Campbell's driver regrets involving NYPD

NEW YORK (AP)—The driver who accused supermodel Naomi Campbell of assaulting him said Thursday through his lawyer that he "got angry and overreacted" and regrets involving the police.

"This whole thing has been blown out of proportion and I apologize to Ms. Campbell for causing that to happen," driver Miodrag Mejdina said.

Campbell

Mejdina told police Tuesday that Campbell hit him from behind and his head struck the steering wheel of the car, causing bruising under his right eye. He pulled over in midtown Manhattan and got out to speak to a traffic agent, who alerted police. Campbell was not at the scene when officers arrived, police said.

Police consulted with the Manhattan district attorney's office and issued a harassment report, which doesn't carry any penalty, because no officer witnessed what took place between the driver and Campbell. The 27-year-old Mejdina decided not to press charges.

Campbell, whose feisty temper has led to previous legal troubles, issued a statement saying she was pleased that Mejdina had apologized and that she wanted to move on.

"I have worked very hard on correcting my previous wrongdoings and I will not be held hostage to my past," she said.

Campbell, 39, has faced a series of lawsuits and criminal cases accusing her of attacking her household employees and two police officers at London's Heathrow Airport.

She pleaded guilty in the Heathrow case in June 2008 after prosecutors said she cursed, kicked and spat at police in a rage over a missing piece of luggage; she was sentenced to 200 hours of community service.

She also did a week of community service sweeping floors and scrubbing toilets in a Manhattan garbage-truck garage in 2007 after pleading guilty to misdemeanor assault for hurling a cell phone at her maid because of a vanished pair of jeans.

In 2000, Campbell pleaded guilty in Toronto to an assault charge for beating an assistant who said the model whacked her on the head with a phone.

Stewart pitches new show called 'Help Me, Martha'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ever wonder how Martha Stewart might tackle your decorating disaster or party planning nightmare? Some folks will soon get the chance to find out.

Stewart announced Thursday that she and producer Mark Burnett are teaming up for a new television series, "Help Me, Martha." It's being made by Stewart's company, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

In the reality series, someone petitions Stewart to help a friend who's having trouble planning a wedding or a special meal or is facing some other lifestyle issue. The doorbell rings and—surprise!—Stewart and her team are there to take over.

AP

In this publicity image released by The Martha Stewart Show, host Martha Stewart makes monogrammed coat hooks during "The Martha Stewart Show" Wednesday, March 3, 2010 in New York.

Burnett says it's been fun to see "the joy on people's faces that Martha Stewart is in their home."

Stewart's company has yet to sell the series to a television network.

AP

In this photo provided by Picturegroup, contestants from left to right, Crystal Bowersox, Haeley Vaughn, Lacey Brown, Katie Stevens, Didi Benami, Michelle Delamor, Lilly Scott, Katelyn Epperly, Paige Miles, and Siobhan Magnus, are seen during the American Idol Season 9 top 10 girls performance show, Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in Los Angeles.

'American Idol' voters give the hook to 4

NEW YORK (AP)—College student John Park and gospel singer Jermaine Sellers were sent home Thursday along with female semifinalists Michelle Delamor and Haeley Vaughn as "American Idol" voters trimmed the field to 16 rivals on the Fox singing competition show.

Park, a 21-year-old from Northbrook, Ill., said he left the show with no regrets when he heard the bad news from host Ryan Seacrest.

Joining Park out the door was Sellers, a 27-year-old from Joliet, Ill. "In God there is no failure," Sellers said. "So I leave here happy."

Also getting the boot were Vaughn, a 16-year-old high school student from Fort Collins, Colo., and Delamor, 22, of Miami, Fla.

"I think I was so wrapped up in trying to do everything right while being judged that I kind of lost sight of just performing," Delamor said afterward.

The two male and two female semifinalists had logged the fewest viewer votes following their on-air performances earlier this week.

The remaining 16 contestants will vie for a spot among the top dozen finalists next week.

Bullock, Bridges other nominees join Oscar crew

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Academy Awards front-runners Sandra Bullock and Jeff Bridges and at least four other nominees are hitting the Oscar stage as presenters.

Joining Bridges and Bullock as Oscar presenters will be fellow acting nominees Matt Damon, Anna Kendrick and Carey Mulligan and directing contender Quentin Tarantino.

Bridges is the best-actor favorite for "Crazy Heart" at Sunday's show, and Bullock is widely expected to win best actress for "The Blind Side."

Mulligan also is nominated for best actress for "An Education." Damon is up for supporting actor in "Invictus," and Kendrick is up for supporting actress for "Up in the Air."

Tarantino is nominated for "Inglourious Basterds."

In this Feb. 26, 2010 file photo, Sandra Bullock arrives at the 41st NAACP Image Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

ABC to air video of kidnap victim Jaycee Dugard

NEW YORK (AP)—ABC says it will air home video Friday of kidnapping victim Jaycee Dugard, who was rescued last August after 18 years in captivity. The network says Dugard, her mother, Terry Probyn, and her half-sister Shayna will be seen and heard for the first time on-camera since she was abducted in 1991 near her home in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. She was held prisoner in the backyard of her captor. Dugard now lives with her mother and her two daughters, allegedly fathered by her abductor, in northern California. Excerpts from the video of Dugard, now 29, are scheduled to air on "Good Morning America," "20/20" and "Nightline."

Donny & Marie Osmond show adds 5 shows after break

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The Donny & Marie show at Flamingo Las Vegas will add five extra shows after taking a break because of the death of Marie Osmond's son. The show returns to its normal performance schedule Tuesday after several shows were canceled in the wake of Michael Blosil's death. Police have said the 18-year-old was killed when he jumped from a downtown Los Angeles apartment building. The extra shows will run April 13-17. The dates were originally unscheduled but were added to accommodate those who had tickets to recently canceled shows. Tickets for the newly announced dates go on sale Friday.

Dane, Gayheart welcome baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A spokeswoman for actors Eric Dane and Rebecca Gayheart says the couple has welcomed their first child, a baby girl. Publicist Nanci Ryder told The Associated Press that the 38-year-old Gayheart gave birth Wednesday in Los Angeles. She said in an e-mail Thursday that "mother, father and daughter are doing great." The name of the girl was not immediately known. The 37-year-old Dane stars on the ABC drama "Grey's Anatomy" and most recently played a Brett Favre-esque retiring quarterback in the movie "Valentine's Day." His wife is best known for roles in television shows that have included Fox shows "90210" and "Vanished." The couple married in 2004.

Faith Hill, Chris Isaak to perform at Rock Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—Faith Hill may be a country veteran, but the singer will show off her rock roots when she performs at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony later this month. Hill will be joined by Chris Isaak, Adam Levine and Jesse Carmichael of Maroon 5, Train's Pat Monahan, Ronnie Spector, Fefe Dobson, Eric Burdon and Peter Wolf. The performers were announced Wednesday by the hall, which is based in Cleveland. The hall also said surprise guests will appear. The induction ceremony—which will honor ABBA, Genesis, Jimmy Cliff and more—takes place March 15 in New York and will air live on Fuse TV at 8:30 p.m. EST.

Bride-to-be wonders which ring to wear in her portrait

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am being married in August. I'm going to have my bridal portrait taken, and I need to know if I'm supposed to wear my wedding ring in the photo session or my engagement ring. Also, how soon do I need to schedule the portrait session?

BRIDE-TO-BE, PECOS, TEXAS

Dear Abby

DEAR BRIDE-TO-BE: Congratulations on your forthcoming nuptials. According to my wedding expert, you should schedule your wedding portrait to be taken sometime in the month before your wedding, and you should be photographed wearing only your engagement ring. Oops! That didn't come out right. You should also be wearing your wedding gown.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have an incredible career and was recently promoted to a position that requires frequent travel, which I love. Part of my job involves providing educational programming.

I invited my sister to help me with a couple of training sessions, and I covered the cost of her travel and meals.

Now she expects to travel with me on every trip. She has booked her own flights on two other trips already this year.

I have a hard time telling my sister no, but at the same time, I'm working when I am on these trips. I have meetings and events that I cannot include her in. She says she wants to learn "everything" about what I do so she can do it, too.

Abby, I worked more than 25 years to get to this point in my career. I would love for her to be in the same field, but she has never worked in it and doesn't always know how to talk to people. She jokes and makes inappropriate comments that leave me embarrassed and angry. How do I tell her I can't keep having her along for the ride?

WOEFUL ROAD WARRIOR IN OHIO

DEAR ROAD WARRIOR: By stiffening your backbone, informing your sister what it was she has said—and to whom—that made you feel embarrassed and angry, and telling her that from now on you will be flying solo. The last thing you need at this point in your career is for her behavior to reflect on your performance. And it could.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: Recently, a question was raised about whether my mother might have been pregnant at the time of her wedding more than 30 years ago. I wasn't premature, and no, I never "did the math."

Not once in my life was there ever a hint of such a thing, and no one ever alluded to it over the years. I am shocked. Mother has been so proper all my life, and she raised my sister and me to be ladies under strict supervision. Why would she not tell us, even after we became adults—wives and parents struggling with the same situations?

Should I let it go and respect Mother's obvious wish to keep it her own? Can I ask her without damaging our good relationship? Could there be another explanation? A big part of me wants to know the truth.

CURIOUS IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR CURIOUS: I see nothing to be gained by bringing up something that you know could cause your mother pain or embarrassment. Because she "obviously" (your word) wishes to keep the matter private, my inclination would be to let it go.

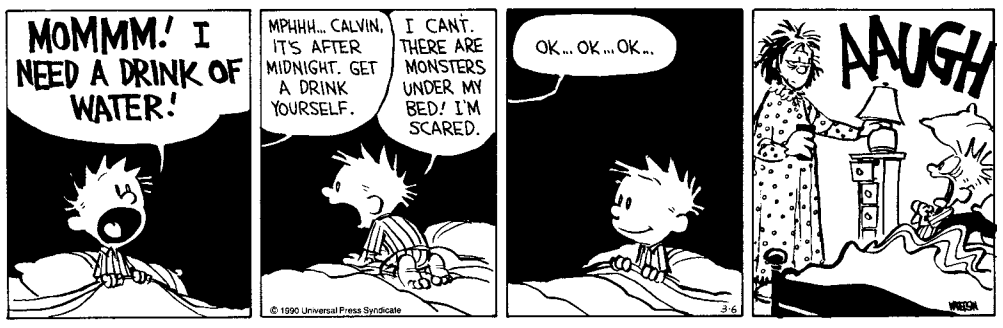
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


MOMMM! I NEED A DRINK OF WATER!
MPHHH... CALVIN, IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT. GET A DRINK YOURSELF.
I CAN'T. THERE ARE MONSTERS UNDER MY BED! I'M SCARED.
OK... OK... OK...
AAUGH
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
3-6

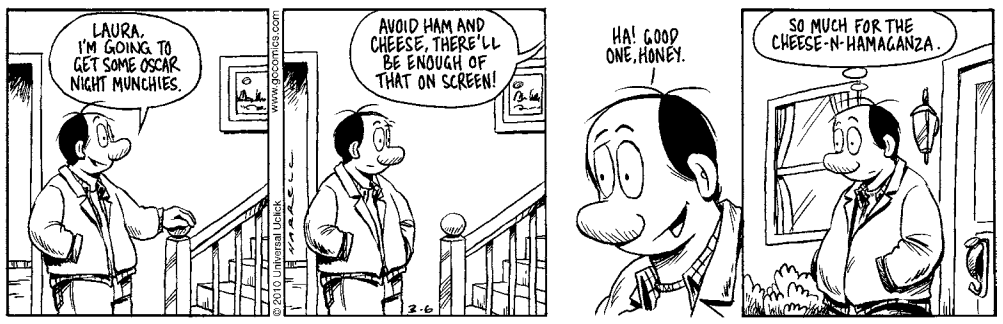
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M MAKING BIG PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, GARFIELD!
© 2010 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
FOR STARTERS, I'M HOPING TO GET A PEN WITH INK IN IT
WHOA, GETTING A LITTLE AMBITIOUS THERE, AREN'T WE?
3-6
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


LAURA, I'M GOING TO GET SOME OSCAR NIGHT MUNCHIES.
AVOID HAM AND CHEESE, THERE'LL BE ENOUGH OF THAT ON SCREEN!
www.gocomics.com
© 2010 Universal Uclick
3-6
HA! GOOD ONE, HONEY.
SO MUCH FOR THE CHEESE-N-HAMAGANZA.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT ATHLETE. I HAD A LOT OF POTENTIAL.
© 2010 Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Uclick
3-6
BUT MY COACHES DIDN'T PUSH ME HARD ENOUGH.
Glenn McCoy
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

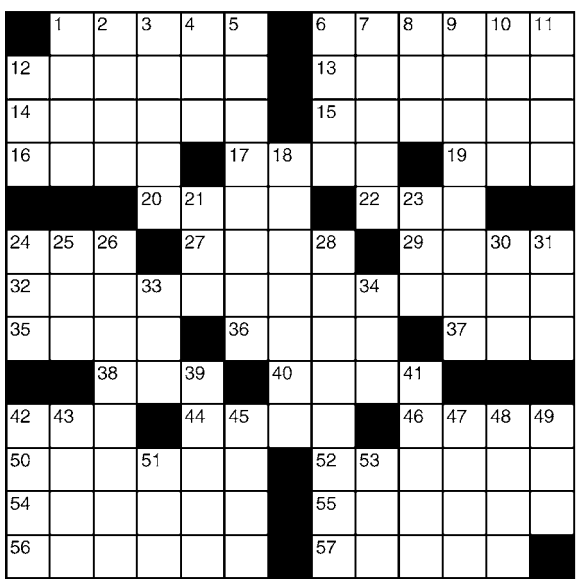
ACROSS
1 Hide
6 Idle
12 Third-largest island
13 Come to a conclusion
14 Web forum predecessor
15 Aid for GM drivers
16 Soy protein source
17 "Star —"
19 Back
20 Sir's counterpart
22 Freudian concept
24 McKinley's first lady
27 Impale
29 Physical
32 Faye Dunaway movie
35 Incubator sound
36 Authentic
37 Hot tub
38 Pi follower
40 Condo, e.g.
42 Swiss canton
44 Grate
46 Baghdad's land
50 Gregarious
52 Resistance
54 Nebraska river
55 Ogled
56 Has a feeling
57 Blundered

DOWN
1 Mediocre
2 Not kosher
3 Per — (yearly)
4 Witness
5 Trouble
6 Stench
7 Nervous
8 Photo badges, for ex.
9 Puts one over on
10 Cicatrix
11 Architect Saarinen
12 On the other hand
18 Movie about Mozart
21 "— was saying, ..."
23 Deutschland (Abbr.)
24 Mischievous tyke
25 Fawn's mama
26 Cheese choice
28 Tall, thin person
30 Cleo's slayer
31 1959 Kingston Trio hit
33 Speedometer stat
34 Foreman foe
39 Speechify
41 Stopwatch
42 Delivery org.
43 Portrayal
45 Milwaukee products
47 Exceptional
48 On in years
49 Proof ending
51 "— Impossible"
53 That girl

Solution time: 27 mins.

M	O	I	■	S	O	P	H	■	P	R	A	Y
O	A	R	■	T	O	R	I	■	R	I	S	E
W	H	O	L	E	H	O	G	■	O	O	P	S
S	U	N	D	A	E	■	H	E	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	L	D	■	H	O	G	T	I	E
S	K	I	P	S	■	B	A	N	■	O	D	D
L	I	S	A	■	C	U	T	■	M	O	O	D
O	W	L	■	W	A	G	■	B	E	L	L	Y
T	I	E	P	I	N	■	S	O	T	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	G	O	■	A	N	O	I	N	T
T	A	U	T	■	P	I	N	M	O	N	E	Y
S	I	F	T	■	U	N	T	O	■	C	A	P
P	L	O	Y	■	S	K	A	T	■	A	P	E

Yesterday's answer 3-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Eli Marienthal, 24; Shaquille O'Neal, 38; D.L. Hughley, 47; Rob Reiner, 63

Happy Birthday: Working in conjunction with others will lead to problems. Be secretive about what you are doing and work slowly and quietly to reach your own goals. Overspending will cause some problems. Think through each move you make instead of casting your fate to the wind and seeing how things unfold. Your numbers are 8, 11, 15, 22, 26, 29, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Get busy working on your own thing so that no one will interfere with your progress. Idle time is the enemy. Concentrate on what you do well and work diligently until the task is complete. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): If you allow your emotions to lead the way, you will make a costly mistake. Avoid complaining about work to the ones you love. Spend quality time with friends and family, making plans for the future. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A financial problem will result if you get into a power struggle with someone. You have to respect what superiors do whether it's at home, work or school. Deal with your responsibilities so you can enjoy time with your friends. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Put in extra hours at work if it will help you reach your goals or get ahead. Someone you care for will reciprocate if you send the right signals. This is a great time to share your thoughts and make plans for the future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't get involved in risky ventures. You will lose if you think you can buy your way in or out of an emotional situation. Focus on what you have to offer and leave time to enjoy a hobby, pastime or activity that interests you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You'll get into trouble if you are too open about the way you feel. Love is on the line and you may feel obligated to make a decision. Wait until you have a better handle on your emotions. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take your responsibilities seriously and you will avoid making a mistake that will lead to separation. Don't let anyone take you for granted or try to get what you have to offer for free. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stick to your game plan and do not let anyone lure you in a different direction. Don't think for a minute that someone is more qualified or has more to offer than you. Love is on the rise and you can find common ground with the right partner. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): A change of plans will allow you to express your feelings about a situation that has been bothering you for some time. Be honest and you can resolve unfinished business. Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do not lend or borrow. Be responsible for your own expenses but don't take on the debts of others. Emotional deception will leave you feeling sorry for someone who doesn't deserve your generosity or kindness. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You will not be in agreement with everyone you have to deal with. Listen to what's being said and try to find common ground without giving up what means the most to you. Rethink your strategy. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Honor your promises and you will avoid being chastised by someone trying to hold you to your word. Inconsistency will be your downfall. Avoid letting your emotions take over. Your reputation may be questioned. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional and sensitive. You are unique, fearless and aggressive when you want something and are a master of manipulation.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6	5						9
2			1		6			
3			7					
	5	1					8	
				4				
	7					3	4	
					5			8
			6		9			7
7						1	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	2	3	7	1	8	5	4
5	1	3	4	9	8	2	6	7
8	7	4	5	6	2	9	1	3
4	3	7	1	8	5	6	9	2
2	9	1	6	3	4	7	8	5
6	8	5	7	2	9	3	4	1
1	2	6	8	5	3	4	7	9
7	5	9	2	4	6	1	3	8
3	4	8	9	1	7	5	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAKE BOSS **Solution: 9 letters**

T	T	M	A	E	T	F	L	U	F	F	Y	L	N	N
I	N	O	T	D	E	E	I	O	A	W	Ⓓ	I	I	V
F	R	A	N	K	I	E	L	N	J	Ⓛ	D	S	Y	A
M	A	A	D	E	E	O	C	O	Ⓞ	R	U	A	M	L
A	R	E	G	N	T	Y	U	Ⓑ	I	O	B	A	E	A
K	E	D	R	R	O	O	Z	O	C	V	M	Y	R	S
E	R	I	A	A	R	F	N	U	N	M	A	R	Y	T
N	O	B	C	G	A	A	S	E	L	U	M	E	A	R
I	T	L	E	U	T	T	K	H	S	A	E	K	L	O
H	A	E	G	S	O	O	C	C	O	D	B	A	L	W
S	R	N	A	M	B	T	I	A	A	T	A	B	E	N
N	O	C	I	O	E	W	P	K	M	R	H	N	I	S
U	C	Z	H	R	E	C	H	E	F	A	L	E	N	B
S	E	I	T	R	A	P	Y	S	U	B	T	O	A	Y
D	D	S	C	I	A	R	R	O	N	E	Y	O	D	D

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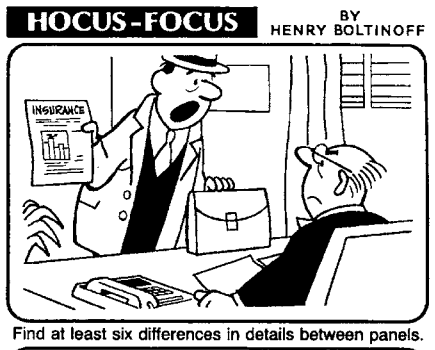
Amato, Bakery, Bartolo, Bibba, Bold, Buddy, Busy, Cakes, Carlo, Castano, Chef, Cousin, Crew, Customized, Daniella, Danny, Decorator, Edible, Fancy, Faugno, Fluffy, Fondant, Frankie, Grace, Hoboken, Hothead, Krand, Lil Cuz, Lisa, Make, Mama, Mary, Mauro, Mule, Owns, Parties, Pick, Rare, Remy, Sciarrone, Stretch, Sugar, Sunshine, Team, ToneTone, Toni, Valastro, Violet

Yesterday's Answer: River

Treasury 5 can be ordered by sending check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 postage and handling each (S14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Universal Uclick, Attn: Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Plant is missing. 2. Man's nose is smaller. 3. Blinds are longer. 4. Briefcase is different. 5. Chair has cushioned back. 6. Picture has been added.

Wishing Well®

4	3	8	5	8	6	7	5	4	5	2	6	5
D	F	S	A	H	C	L	T	O	T	A	L	A
4	2	7	8	6	7	5	2	5	3	8	3	5
N	R	E	O	O	A	I	A	N	A	W	M	H
2	8	7	3	5	3	5	7	8	6	7	3	2
D	A	D	I	U	L	M	O	P	U	T	Y	I
8	4	8	5	8	4	5	7	8	5	6	2	4
P	O	R	I	E	T	L	H	C	I	D	A	H
7	8	3	5	2	8	5	3	2	3	2	6	2
E	I	V	T	N	A	Y	I	T	S	S	S	M
6	4	8	4	2	6	2	8	6	8	4	6	2
A	E	T	S	I	R	L	I	E	O	I	G	E
7	6	8	6	4	3	4	6	7	4	3	4	3
R	O	N	N	T	I	A	E	S	T	T	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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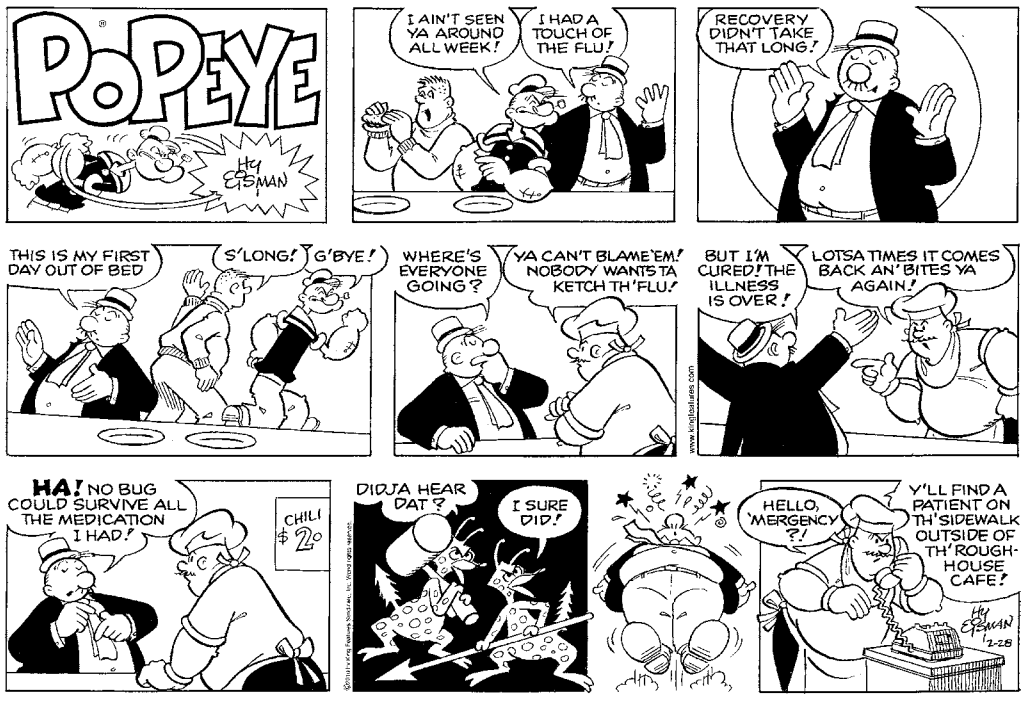
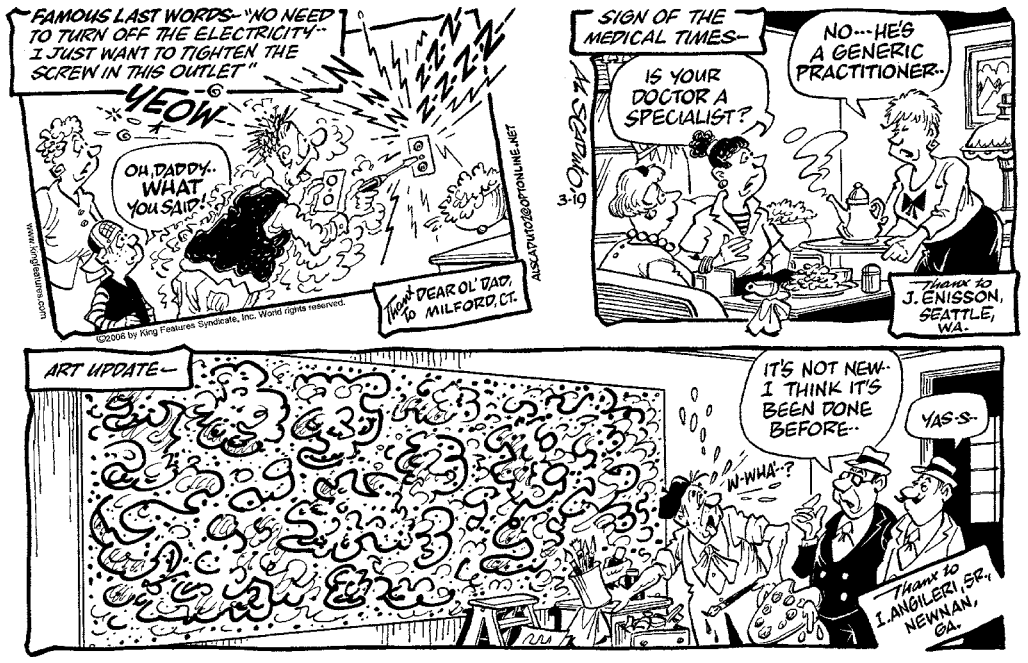
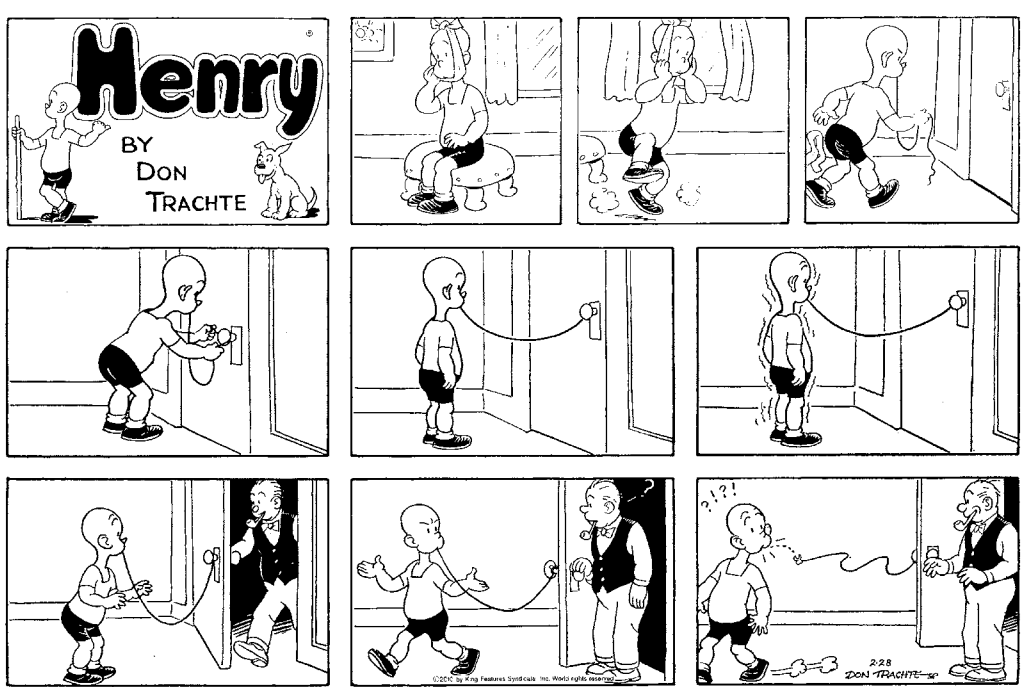

POPEYE
Hy EISMAN
I AIN'T SEEN YA AROUND ALL WEEK!
I HAD A TOUCH OF THE FLU!
RECOVERY DIDN'T TAKE THAT LONG!
THIS IS MY FIRST DAY OUT OF BED
S'LONG!
G'BYE!
WHERE'S EVERYONE GOING?
YA CAN'T BLAME 'EM! NOBODY WANTS TA KETCH TH' FLU!
BUT I'M CURED! THE ILLNESS IS OVER!
LOTSA TIMES IT COMES BACK AN' BITES YA AGAIN!
HA! NO BUG COULD SURVIVE ALL THE MEDICATION I HAD!
CHILI $2
DIDJA HEAR DAT?
I SURE DID!
HELLO, 'MERGENCY?!
Y'LL FIND A PATIENT ON TH' SIDEWALK OUTSIDE OF TH' ROUGH-HOUSE CAFE!
Hy EISMAN 1-28
www.kingfeatures.com

They'll Do It Every Time — by Al Scaduto


FAMOUS LAST WORDS-"NO NEED TO TURN OFF THE ELECTRICITY-- I JUST WANT TO TIGHTEN THE SCREW IN THIS OUTLET"
YEOW
OH, DADDY.. WHAT YOU SAID!
SIGN OF THE MEDICAL TIMES-
IS YOUR DOCTOR A SPECIALIST?
NO---HE'S A GENERIC PRACTITIONER..
Thanx to J. ENISSON, SEATTLE, WA.
ART UPDATE-
IT'S NOT NEW-- I THINK IT'S BEEN DONE BEFORE..
YAS-S..
W-WHA-?
Thanx to I. ANGILERI, SR., NEWNAN, GA.
www.kingfeatures.com



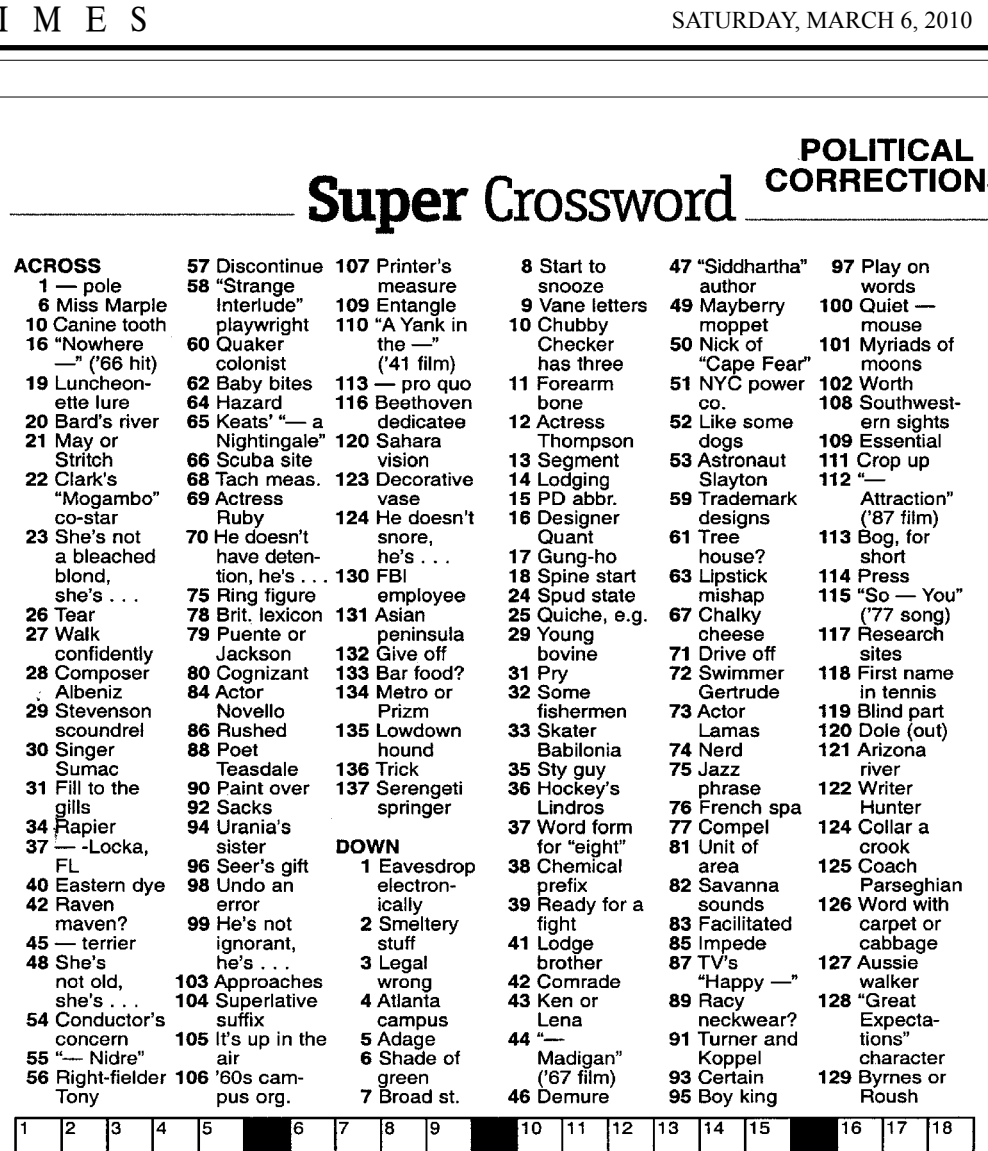
Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 — pole
6 Miss Marple
10 Canine tooth
16 "Nowhere —" ('66 hit)
19 Luncheonette lure
20 Bard's river
21 May or Stritch
22 Clark's "Mogambo" co-star
23 She's not a bleached blond, she's . . .
26 Tear
27 Walk confidently
28 Composer Albeniz
29 Stevenson scoundrel
30 Singer Sumac
31 Fill to the gills
34 Rapier
37 — -Locka, FL
40 Eastern dye
42 Raven maven?
45 — terrier
48 She's not old, she's . . .
54 Conductor's concern
55 "— Nidre"
56 Right-fielder Tony
57 Discontinue
58 "Strange Interlude" playwright
60 Quaker colonist
62 Baby bites
64 Hazard
65 Keats' "— a Nightingale"
66 Scuba site
68 Tach meas.
69 Actress Ruby
70 He doesn't have detention, he's . . .
75 Ring figure
78 Brit. lexicon
79 Puente or Jackson
80 Cognizant
84 Actor Novello
86 Rushed
88 Poet Teasdale
90 Paint over
92 Sacks
94 Urania's sister
96 Seer's gift
98 Undo an error
99 He's not ignorant, he's . . .
103 Approaches
104 Superlative suffix
105 It's up in the air
106 '60s campus org.
107 Printer's measure
109 Entangle
110 "A Yank in the —" ('41 film)
113 — pro quo
116 Beethoven dedicatee
120 Sahara vision
123 Decorative vase
124 He doesn't snore, he's . . .
130 FBI employee
131 Asian peninsula
132 Give off
133 Bar food?
134 Metro or Prizm
135 Lowdown hound
136 Trick
137 Serengeti springer

DOWN

1 Eavesdrop electronically
2 Smeltery stuff
3 Legal wrong
4 Atlanta campus
5 Adage
6 Shade of green
7 Broad st.
8 Start to snooze
9 Vane letters
10 Chubby Checker has three
11 Forearm bone
12 Actress Thompson
13 Segment
14 Lodging
15 PD abbr.
16 Designer Quant
17 Gung-ho
18 Spine start
24 Spud state
25 Quiche, e.g.
29 Young bovine
31 Pry
32 Some fishermen
33 Skater Babilonia
35 Sty guy
36 Hockey's Lindros
37 Word form for "eight"
38 Chemical prefix
39 Ready for a fight
41 Lodge brother
42 Comrade
43 Ken or Lena
44 "— Madigan" ('67 film)
46 Demure
47 "Siddhartha" author
49 Mayberry moppet
50 Nick of "Cape Fear"
51 NYC power co.
52 Like some dogs
53 Astronaut Slayton
59 Trademark designs
61 Tree house?
63 Lipstick mishap
67 Chalky cheese
71 Drive off
72 Swimmer Gertrude
73 Actor Lamas
74 Nerd
75 Jazz phrase
76 French spa
77 Compel
81 Unit of area
82 Savanna sounds
83 Facilitated
85 Impede
87 TV's "Happy —"
89 Racy neckwear?
91 Turner and Koppel
93 Certain
95 Boy king
97 Play on words
100 Quiet — mouse
101 Myriads of moons
102 Worth
108 Southwestern sights
109 Essential
111 Crop up
112 "— Attraction" ('87 film)
113 Bog, for short
114 Press
115 "So — You" ('77 song)
117 Research sites
118 First name in tennis
119 Blind part
120 Dole (out)
121 Arizona river
122 Writer Hunter
124 Collar a crook
125 Coach Parseghian
126 Word with carpet or cabbage
127 Aussie walker
128 "Great Expectations" character
129 Byrnes or Roush



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POLITICAL CORRECTIONS

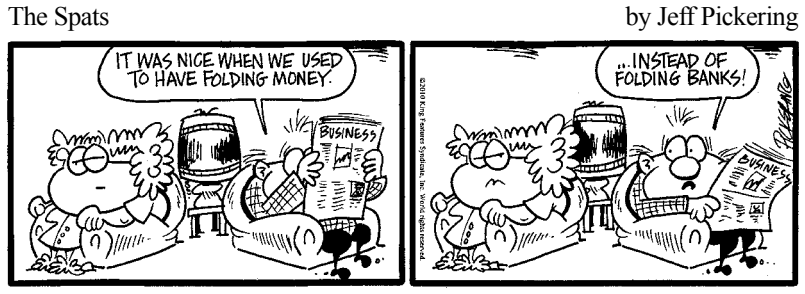
Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What was the title of the theme song to the sitcom "Cheers"?
2. U.S. STATES: What state's motto is "North to the Future"?
3. MATH: Who is known as the father of geometry?
4. ASTRONOMY: What are Saturn's giant rings made of?
5. MOVIES: What was the first Pixar film to receive a PG rating?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Isle of Wight in relation to England?
7. MEDICINE: What is the more common name for the ailment officially known as "tinea pedis"?
8. AD SLOGANS: What 1960s and '70s product warned consumers to "be careful how you use it"?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the fastest known bird in the world?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the birthstone for April?

Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps

THAT'S IT GO GO..GO..GO..GO!
AH, COME ON! HANG ON TO THE BALL!
WOW, YOUR DAD REALLY GETS IN TO FOOTBALL.
YEAH, BUT HIS TEAM WINS.
I'VE SEEN THIS ONE.

The Spats — by Jeff Pickering



Answers

1. "Where Everybody Knows Your Name"
2. Alaska
3. The Greek mathematician Euclid
4. Dust and ice
5. "The Incredibles"
6. It lies off England's southern coast
7. Athlete's foot
8. Hai Karate after-shave
9. Peregrin falcon (recorded at speeds of 200 mph)
10. Diamond

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Saturday's Answers

J	A	N	I	S		G	R	A	S	P		D	O	E		F	A	D
A	N	O	D	E		A	M	A	S	S	E	D		A	B	E		R	A	A
I	N	S	I	D	E	M	E	T	H	E	R	E		C	I	R	C	U	I	T
L	A	H		E	L	A	N			E	L	K		E	L	I	T	E		
		A	R	I	Z		B	R	A	H	M	A		D	M	I	T	S		
W	A	R	N		C	O	O	L	E		H	E	R	S	C	H	O	O	L	
I	S	A	T	H	I	N	W	O	M	A	N	T	R	Y	I	N	G	T	O	
T	I	N	S	E	L		T	I	M	P	I	S	H		R	O	Y		Y	N	S
T	A	G		L	I	E	N	S			R	E	F	L	E	C	T	R	I	O
		T	E	E	N			B	R	O	O	M		E	C	H	O	E	A	
	S	P	I	N		G	E	T	O	U	T	B	U	T		L	U	L	L	
S	H	A	M	A	N		R	D	G	E	T			E	G	I	S			
P	A	N	E		A	L	E	S			S	L	A	I	N		F	O	A	
A	R	I		S	T	I	C		A	B	B	I	E		S	C	H	O	O	L
	I	C	A	N	U	S	U	A	L	L	Y	S	H	U	T	H	E	R	U	P
		K	A	R	E	N		A	T	T	A	I	N			R	A	G	S	
	T	R	I	P	E		T	A	S	S	E	L		I	M	M	A			
F	R	I	S		D	O	S			O	A	S	E	A	S	S	T			
D	O	N	A	H	U	E		W	I	T	H	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E
I	T	S		O	F	F		E	D	I	T	I	O	N		R	O	L	L	S
O	H	E		T	O	T		A	S	S	A	Y		I	N	E	P	T		

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

SY EA

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Find today's solution in this section

TREAT's garage sale:

Leaving island sale Saturday, March 6, beginning at 7 am. Lots of miscellaneous items including two custom made children's castle beds without mattresses, 5250 watt generator, upright freezer. No discounts until after 10 am. No early birds please! Located on Kagman Rd. one-half mile from Mobil station. Second house on the right.

EXOTIC PLANTS SALE

in Tanapag at Affordable Price
Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010
Follow sign after I-MART
or call 322-3900

EMPLOYMENT

Part Time-Physical Therapist needed immediately! Must be licensed in the CNMI up to $35/hr Call Pacific Home & Health Care, LLC at 234-2273 or email at jobs@pacific-nurse.com for more information Applications and inquires are kept strictly confidential.

WHATZIT Solution: Easy come, easy go

QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as...
$25.00
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Wanted: Avon Representative and earn 20% up to 50% commission. Please contact Jojo Faller at 323-4455 or 483-1971.

FOR LEASE

Barracks & Property for long term lease 914 sq meters. Located at Lower Navy Hill, near American Memorial Park. Good location. If interested, please call 788-2576

House & Property for long term lease 1,015 sq meters. Located at As Lito, Near Guangdong Hardware. Good Location. If interested, please call 287-7676

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009
25
Sports
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAG
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAG
$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's
By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
The fate of the $1.35 million in CNMI special projects funding requested by Del-
egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Fiscal Year 2010 spending bill cleared the U.S. Senate on Sunday.
Sablan's request for $1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is contained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a $447-billion spending measure for
10 DAYS to go before Christmas
OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Should NMC revisit its policy of allowing the termination of NMC employees without cause?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.
Fitial: Ombudsman shouldn't accommodate 'overstayers'

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Wade gets 27, Heat hold off Lakers in OT

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade had 27 points and 14 assists, Quentin Richardson scored a season-high 25 and the Miami Heat found a way to overcome a huge effort by Kobe Bryant to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 114-111 in overtime Thursday night.

Carlos Arroyo scored 17 points, Jermaine O'Neal scored 13 and Udonis Haslem had 12 for Miami, which won the NBA's most wildly back-and-forth game all season - with a season-high 31 lead changes.

Bryant scored 39 points, including the overtime-forcing jumper for the Lakers, who got 14 points from Derek Fisher and 13 points from Lamar Odom.

It still wasn't enough, as the Heat was 4 for 4 from the field and 7 for 8 from the foul line in overtime.

O'Neal had the defensive play of the night with 18.7 seconds left in overtime, drawing his team-leading 19th charge of the season—on Bryant, no less, who drove the left side of the lane looking to tie the game.

Instead, Arroyo made two free throws 0.3 seconds later, and Miami held on.

Haslem finished with 11 rebounds for the Heat. Andrew Bynum scored 12 points for the Lakers, who got 10 apiece from Ron Artest and Pau Gasol.

Miami led by nine with 9 minutes remaining in regulation, and still held a 92-84 edge when Wade hit a 3-pointer with 3:40 remaining. The defending champion Lakers weren't bothered by it.

They answered with a 9-2 run, capped by Fisher's 3-pointer from the left corner with 1:56 left in regulation, and from there turned almost exclusively to Bryant. He made two free throws in the final minute to give Los Angeles a 97-96 lead, and after Richardson put Miami up 99-97 with his seventh 3-pointer of the night with 11.1 seconds remaining, the stage was Bryant's.

Naturally, he delivered, just as he did with a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to beat Miami at Staples Center earlier this season.

He drove right on Wade, pulled up and coolly made a jumper with 3.3 seconds left. And when Wade couldn't get a good look at the buzzer, to overtime it went, knotted at 99.

It was tied five more times in the extra session, and Haslem's jumper with 37.3 seconds left put Miami up 111-109.

AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol, right, defendS in the first quarter during an NBA basketball game in Miami, Thursday, March 4, 2010.

From there, Miami found a way.

Back at .500 now at 31-31, the Heat moved 1 1/2 games clear of Charlotte in the race for the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race and within 1 1/2 games of Toronto for the No. 5 spot. Plus, they beat the Lakers at home for the sixth time in the last eight meetings in Miami.

Win or lose, Miami was going to stay in the No. 8 seed after Thursday. But clearly, this one meant a little something extra to the Heat, who hadn't won back-to-back games at home since mid-January.

Neither team had more than a four-point lead at any point in the opening half, until the Heat went on a bit of a run late in the third.

Down 63-61 after Bryant hit a long 3-pointer from the left wing with 5:16 remaining in the period, Miami peeled off the next nine points, the last three coming from an unlikely source. Richardson hit consecutive 3-pointers to give Miami a four-point lead, and Jamaal Magloire—who had a total of two points in the last four weeks—scored the final three, pushing the edge to 70-63.

Jazz 116, Suns 108

At Phoenix, the Utah Jazz piled on 41 points in the fourth quarter to overhaul a 12-point final period deficit and beat the Phoenix Suns.

Deron Williams scored 13 of his 27 points in the last, and Mehmet Okur added 24 for Utah, which trailed 98-86 early in the fourth quarter, then reeled off 12 straight points, capped by a 3-pointer by Okur to tie the game.

They took the lead for good on a 3-pointer by Williams with 1:36 remaining that made it 109-106.

The game was reminiscent of the teams' first meeting this season when the Jazz came back from a 17-point deficit to win.

Carlos Boozer had 15 points and 15 rebounds for Utah, which moved back within a game of Northwest Division leader Denver.

Amare Stoudemire scored 30 points for the second consecutive game for Phoenix.

Grizzlies 105, Bulls 96

In Chicago, Memphis fought back from a big first-half deficit to beat Chicago.

Zach Randolph scored 31 points and grabbed 18 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who trailed by 17 in the second quarter and finally took control with an 8-0 run late in the fourth that gave them a 97-90 lead.

O.J. Mayo scored 10 of his 20 points in the final quarter as Memphis extended its franchise-record road winning streak to six and sent Chicago to its third straight loss.

The Bulls wasted a solid performances by Luol Deng, who got 23 points despite nursing a knee injury.

Durant an 'impossible matchup' for opponents

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Alvin Gentry gets a kick out of the fact that the Oklahoma City Thunder roster lists Kevin Durant at 6 feet, 9 inches tall.

Maybe if he were actually that size—instead of a few inches taller—defenders would have a better chance of slowing down the NBA's second-leading scorer.

"He's just a real tough matchup. When you talk about matchups, you look at Kobe and LeBron and Dwyane Wade or Carmelo and then obviously he's right there," said Gentry, the Phoenix Suns coach. "Of course, the thing that they don't have that he has is he's got such length. He's almost a 7-foot guy. That's the bottom line."

Durant's size and athleticism have made him nearly impossible to guard, certainly over the last couple of months. He can maneuver around just about anyone tall enough to match his lanky frame, and he can simply shoot over shorter opponents, no matter how closely they guard him.

He has scored at least 25 points in 32 of his last 34 games, including a stretch of 29 in a row that was the longest streak since Michael Jordan did it on the way to his first NBA scoring title during the 1986-87 season.

Gentry recalled seeing Durant standing next to the Suns' 6-foot-10 center, Amare Stoudemire, during the All-Star game and noticed that Durant was actually taller. Combine that with Durant's wingspan and it's hard to find anyone who can get a hand in the way of his jump shot.

"I don't think you care who you put on him. What you can't do is you can't duplicate what he is, and that's a 6-11 guy with length and speed and shooting ability and ball-handling skills and things like that," Gentry said. "The closest guy is probably George Gervin, and he probably wasn't anywhere close to being as athletic as Durant is."

Durant was the NBA's Rookie of the Year two seasons ago but his numbers from then pale in comparison to what he's doing now. He averaged 20.3 points in that first season with the Seattle SuperSonics and was scoring 21.1 points per game in his first 12 games under P.J. Carlesimo last season in Oklahoma City.

Scott Brooks took over for Carlesimo and last season moved Durant from shooting guard to small forward, his numbers have taken off. Durant scored five more points per game in the final 62 games of last season and is now averaging 29.7 points this season—one-tenth of a point behind NBA leader LeBron James. He has been averaging more than 31 points since Christmas.

"He's such a unique player and such a difficult defend," Minnesota coach Kurt Rambis said. "Whether he's getting double- or triple-teamed, he's passing the basketball. He can put the ball on the floor, he can attack the basket, he can run, he can shoot long-range shots. The way that he shoots the basketball and the confidence with which he plays, he's just going to continue to get better and better."

Brooks said he made the move because he wanted Durant—then just beginning his second NBA season—to focus on learning one position and he thought small forward was the most natural fit.

Now, he's comfortable putting him at three different positions.

NBA BRIEFS

Z wants to go back to Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP)—Zydrunas Ilgauskas has forgiven the Cleveland Cavaliers. Feeling betrayed after he was traded last month, Ilgauskas wants to return to the only NBA team he has played for to help it win a championship. Ilgauskas, the towering center known to Cleveland fans simply as "Z," told his agent Herb Rudoy to begin negotiations with the Cavs on March 22—the first day he can sign. "The NBA rules do not allow any contract discussions until that date," Rudoy said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "It is Zydrunas' desire to return to the Cavaliers if a suitable contract can be agreed upon." It's likely the Cavs will accept him back with open arms. General manager Danny Ferry agonized over the decision to trade Ilgauskas, a former teammate, close friend and the franchise's leader in rebounds and games played, to Washington as part of the deal for forward Antawn Jamison. Now, Ferry has a chance to make everything right.

Mavs' Terry will need surgery after blow to face

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Terry is scheduled to have surgery Friday after taking an elbow to the face during a game. The team said a timetable for Terry's return would be determined after the surgery. Terry's left eye was nearly swollen shut when he left the Dallas locker room after Wednesday night's 112-109 victory over Minnesota. Terry was hurt with 4 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter. He was called for a foul even though he was sprawled on his back with a bloody nose after took a blow to the face from Corey Brewer, who was dribbling toward midcourt when they collided. After remaining on the floor for several minutes, Terry went to the locker room briefly. He was back in the game before the end of the third quarter and played the rest of the game with a wad of tissue stick out of his left nostril.

Timberwolves giving Milicic a chance to start

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves are giving newcomer Darko Milicic a chance in the starting lineup. It's a brief experiment, while Al Jefferson serves a two-game suspension after his arrest on suspicion of DWI last weekend. Milicic picked up four fouls in Wednesday's loss at Dallas, along with six points and two rebounds in 14 minutes during his first start of the season. Jefferson will also sit Saturday against Houston. Coach Kurt Rambis said Thursday that Milicic probably will go back to the bench next week, but praised his progress and potential since arriving in a trade with New York last month. Milicic says his comfort level and conditioning are increasing, though his current plan remains to return to Europe after the season.

Jets reach agreement with Chargers for Cromartie

NEW YORK (AP)—It just got a lot tougher to throw against the New York Jets.

A few hours before the NFL's free agency period began, the Jets improved their secondary in a big way by agreeing in principle with the San Diego Chargers to acquire talented but troubled cornerback Antonio Cromartie on Thursday night.

The Jets confirmed the deal, but didn't release specifics—although it is believed to be for a draft pick in 2011.

Cromartie was an All-Pro in 2007 and will team with Darrelle Revis in the Jets' secondary, making them possibly the best cornerback tandem in the NFL. Cromartie replaces Lito Sheppard, who was released earlier in the day after one disappointing season.

It could be a welcome change for Cromartie, who has struggled the last two seasons. He has 15 interceptions in four seasons since being the 19th overall pick out of Florida State in 2006, but the Chargers were dissatisfied with Cromartie's performance late last season and in the playoffs. General manager A.J. Smith made it clear he would try to trade him.

One of Cromartie's low moments actually came against his new team in the playoffs in January. Cromartie froze as Jets running back Shonn Greene hit the hole at the start of a 53-yard touchdown run that gave New York a 10-point lead midway through the fourth quarter of a 17-14 win in the AFC divisional round. Cromartie eventually caught up to Greene and gave him a shove well after he'd crossed the goal line—but he had already drawn the ire of fans and apparently the Chargers.

The 25-year-old Cromartie also has had his share of legal troubles. He has dealt with at least five paternity suits; he has fathered seven children by several woman. Cromartie also had a bar patron claim that he hit him in the head with a champagne bottle hours after the team's victory at Denver last November. San Diego police later said there was not enough evidence to prove the claim.

He was also disciplined by coach Norv Turner for breaking team rules regarding tweeting from the team premises.

Despite the issues both on and off the field, Cromartie gives Jets coach Rex Ryan an athletic player with loads of potential.

In his second season in 2007, Cromartie set the Chargers' franchise record with an NFL-leading 10 interceptions, and added two more picks in the playoffs as San Diego made it to the AFC championship game. He also was credited earlier in the season with the longest play in NFL history when he returned a missed field goal by Minnesota 109 yards for a touchdown.

He boasted the next season that he wanted to break the NFL record for interceptions with 14, but had just two while playing throughout the year with a hip injury. Cromartie had three interceptions last season.

In this Dec. 20, 2009, file photo, San Diego Chargers cornerback Antonio Cromartie walks on the field during an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in San Diego.

AP

Green, Connell lead, upstart Rocha chases at Honda

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Alexandre Rocha nearly stopped playing golf last year, until two moves by the International Olympic Committee changed his mind.

And that's just one tiny part of his unbelievable story.

The world's 711th-ranked player—who needed to survive a pre-qualifier, then a Monday qualifier, then a playoff, just to get into the field at PGA National this week—shot a 4-under 66 on Thursday, one shot back of Nathan Green and Michael Connell after the first round on a windy and unseasonably cool first day at the Honda Classic.

"I needed a day like today like, you have no idea," Rocha said. "And it was for nobody. It's for myself."

The Honda is only his fourth PGA Tour event; the last was in 2003, and he's never made a cut. He lost his European Tour card last year and got status earlier this year on the Asian Tour, only after deciding that he wanted to continue playing golf for a living.

The IOC had much to do with that. First, they awarded the 2016 Summer Olympics to his native Brazil, then added golf to that program. Rocha—who didn't know a word of English when he arrived at Mississippi State—took those moves as signs of what he was supposed to do, so he recommitted to the game with hopes of finally making something happen.

After three straight birdies to open Thursday's round, something was happening.

And plenty of luck was on his side, too. He pulled his drive into a row of houses on the seventh hole, got a fortunate bounce off something and made par. He knocked in 30-foot par-saving putts that he was just trying to get close, saying bogey was a good score. Somehow, he never lost composure.

"I am surprised at how calm, how relaxed and how confident I felt all day," Rocha said. "That surprises me. I am not surprised about the fact that I can play proper golf. I've been working at it, and hard. And it has come out of me in the past before. I'm very satisfied with it, yes. Am I surprised to be in a good position on the leaderboard? Yes. But I wasn't shocked, you know, to see myself playing well."

Only two men did any better.

Green's card was mistake-free, five birdies, no bogeys, and a mere 25 putts. Not bad, considering he was the other guy in a group with major champions Vijay Singh and Padraig Harrington.

"You don't like embarrassing yourself in front of a crowd," Green said. "It can also help you, and I think that's sort of what it did today, playing with those guys. You definitely feed off them a little bit I think, just how calm they keep themselves."

It was a day of redemption for former Mississippi State players.

Connell - like Rocha, a former Bulldog—was a PGA Tour rookie in 2006, making the cut in four of 22 events. He never got back on the tour until this year, got a kickstart with an eagle on the par-5 third hole, and caught Green for the lead with a birdie at the par-3 17th.

Oliver Wilson and Camilo Villegas also were tied for second with Rocha at 4 under.

Singh, Bubba Watson and D.J. Trahan were all two shots back after shooting 67. If there was a surprise out of that group, it might have been Singh. Once the world's No. 1 player, and still ranked No. 5 less than two years ago, Singh's ranking has since fallen to No. 35.

"I know I'm not supposed to be there," Singh said. "The bottom line is, you play well, it's going to be OK. If you play well, the ranking is going to fix itself."

Y.E. Yang had a lot to fix on Thursday.

Yang at the Honda has been an all-or-nothing proposition. He was last after 54 holes in 2008 and played the final round that year by himself in less than two hours, then was a surprise winner at PGA National last year—giving him a boost that he said helped carry him to a breakthrough year and the PGA Championship.

Maybe his title defense at Whistling Straits will go better than his defense at the Honda. Hard to imagine it going worse.

Yang started with a bogey, followed by a quintuple-bogey, leaving him 6 over after two holes and the downward spiral never got turned around. Yang wound up shooting 79, leaving him 14 shots off the pace.

For him, it was a day to forget.

Not for Rocha.

He'll come back Friday afternoon in position to finally make a cut, which for him might be as significant as a victory. He's so far down in the world rankings that if he was a Villegas brother, he'd be third in the family—Camilo's younger brother Manuel actually checks in three spots ahead of Rocha.

Rocha was a first-team All-American in 2000 for Mississippi State, joining, among others, Paul Casey, Luke Donald, Lucas Glover, Charles Howell III, Matt Kuchar and Bryce Molder. He points to what that group has done professionally as some proof that he's underachieved.

Not on Thursday, he couldn't.

How much did he need one good day?

"Like my life depended on it, really," Rocha said.

President Zuma: South Africa 'more than ready' for WCup

LONDON (AP)—South Africa president Jacob Zuma announced at Wembley Stadium on Thursday that his country was "ready, if not more than ready" to host the first World Cup on African soil.

On his first state visit to the United Kingdom, Zuma visited the home of English soccer and reassured the world that the host country was on track for a successful event.

"As a country we have worked hard to ensure that the World Cup comes to South Africa, and it is coming," he said. "We can say now without fear of contradiction that we are ready, if not more than ready, to receive those who come to South Africa."

Relaxed and making jokes, Zuma pointed out the government ministers that had accompanied him on his visit. Many of them wore bright scarves with the red, blue, green and yellow of the South African flag as they sat among the media.

"We are a team here," Zuma said.

Minister of police Nathi Mthethwa likely will be one of the busiest of the group as concerns were raised over safety and security at the tournament that begins June 11.

Zuma was quick to respond.

"It is expected that people will have concerns, but we have worked very hard on the World Cup and that has included the question of safety ... the fact is we have brought down crime already," Zuma said.

"We are therefore very confident on this. And when we say we are ready now for the World Cup, we do not exclude the question of security in that. We are ready to protect those who come. If there are those who are skeptical or feel concern, they must know this matter has been addressed. They will come to South Africa safely and leave safer."

South Africa's World Cup chief Danny Jordaan, who Zuma referred to as "Mr. 2010", said the organizers had made unprecedented security arrangements for the monthlong event.

"I feel comfortable," Jordaan said when asked if he was happy with the plans.

He added South Africa would be the first host country to meet with security representatives for all 32 participating teams at Friday's FIFA World Cup security workshop in Zurich. Jordaan added that more of the lower-priced tickets had been made available for local fans in South Africa.

President Zuma traded jokes with his host, FA chairman Lord David Triesman, who introduced the head of state. Triesman wished the South Africa soccer team good luck, before saying "My wish is, of course, that England will win the World Cup."

"Bafana Bafana will take the cup," Zuma said, joking back and using the South African team's nickname.

Zuma's presence at the 90,000-seater stadium was in part to promote the 2010 World Cup. He also heard a presentation on England's 2018 World Cup bid and endorsed the 1Goal campaign, which supports education for underprivileged children.

Zuma also scored on a penalty kick at Wembley field, watched by England manager Fabio Capello and South Africa captain Aaron Mokoena.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	38	21	.644	—
Toronto	31	28	.525	7
Philadelphia	22	38	.367	16 1/2
New York	21	39	.350	17 1/2
New Jersey	6	54	.100	32 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	42	20	.677	—
Atlanta	39	21	.650	2
Miami	31	31	.500	11
Charlotte	28	31	.475	12 1/2
Washington	21	37	.362	19

Central Division

Cleveland	48	14	.774	—
Milwaukee	31	29	.517	16
Chicago	31	30	.508	16 1/2
Detroit	21	40	.344	26 1/2
Indiana	20	41	.328	27 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	41	21	.661	—
San Antonio	34	24	.586	5
Memphis	32	30	.516	9
New Orleans	31	31	.500	10
Houston	30	30	.500	10

Northwest Division

Denver	40	21	.656	—
Utah	39	22	.639	1
Oklahoma City	36	24	.600	3 1/2
Portland	37	27	.578	4 1/2
Minnesota	14	48	.226	26 1/2

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	46	16	.742	—
Phoenix	39	25	.609	8
L.A. Clippers	25	36	.410	20 1/2
Sacramento	21	40	.344	24 1/2
Golden State	17	43	.283	28

Yesterday's Games

Memphis 105, Chicago 96
Miami 114, L.A. Lakers 111, OT
Utah 116, Phoenix 108

NBA LEADERS

SCORING

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	62	625	489	1850	29.8
Durant, OKC	60	582	524	1779	29.7
Anthony, DEN	48	470	389	1373	28.6
Bryant, LAL	56	564	334	1535	27.4
Wade, MIA	57	529	379	1492	26.2
Ellis, GOL	52	520	244	1335	25.7
Nowitzki, DAL	61	549	406	1536	25.2
Bosh, TOR	53	463	368	1300	24.5
Stoudemire, PHX	63	521	335	1378	21.9
Johnson, ATL	60	511	176	1300	21.7
Jackson, CHA	59	444	248	1228	20.8
Randolph, MEM	61	502	250	1263	20.7
Rose, CHI	60	513	189	1221	20.4
Evans, SAC	56	415	280	1136	20.3
Lee, NYK	60	512	188	1212	20.2
Billups, DEN	52	291	340	1044	20.1
Gay, MEM	59	456	223	1183	20.1
Brooks, HOU	60	423	188	1185	19.8
Boozer, UTA	57	449	221	1119	19.6
Kaman, LAC	55	445	187	1077	19.6

FG PERCENTAGE

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	250	406	.616
Howard, ORL	382	634	.603
Hilario, DEN	322	546	.590
Gasol, MEM	341	587	.581
Millsap, UTA	286	501	.571
Bynum, LAL	348	610	.570
Haywood, DAL	229	404	.567
O'Neal, CLE	262	463	.566
Boozer, UTA	449	809	.555
Lee, NYK	512	924	.554

REBOUNDS

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	62	214	601	815	13.1
Randolph, MEM	61	261	460	721	11.8
Lee, NYK	60	158	538	696	11.6
Camby, POR	58	188	483	671	11.6
Bosh, TOR	53	159	446	605	11.4
Boozer, UTA	57	124	507	631	11.1
Duncan, SAN	55	180	421	601	10.9
Wallace, CHA	57	118	482	600	10.5
Bogut, MIL	54	167	389	556	10.3
Haywood, DAL	59	237	367	604	10.2

ASSISTS

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	62	696	11.2
Paul, NOR	38	424	11.2
Williams, UTA	54	548	10.1
Rondo, BOS	58	575	9.9
Kidd, DAL	60	555	9.3
James, CLE	62	531	8.6
Davis, LAC	59	470	8.0
Westbrook, OKC	60	475	7.9
Harris, NJN	44	294	6.7
Wade, MIA	57	369	6.5

THE HONDA CLASSIC SCORES

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Scores Thursday from the Honda Classic, a $5.2 million event at the 7,158-yard, par-70 PGA National Champion Course:

FIRST ROUND

Nathan Green	32-33—65
Michael Connell	32-33—65
Alexandre Rocha	32-34—66
Oliver Wilson	33-33—66
Camilo Villegas	34-32—66
D.J. Trahan	31-36—67
Bubba Watson	35-32—67
Vijay Singh	33-34—67
Ted Purdy	32-36—68
George McNeill	33-35—68
Alex Cejka	34-34—68
Graeme McDowell	32-36—68
Anthony Kim	35-33—68
Alex Prugh	33-35—68
Scott Piercy	34-34—68
Jonathan Byrd	33-35—68
Tom Gillis	31-37—68
Henrik Bjornstad	35-33—68
Fredrik Jacobson	35-34—69
Lee Westwood	36-33—69
Matt Bettencourt	35-34—69
Jerry Kelly	33-36—69
Will MacKenzie	32-37—69
Sam Saunders	35-34—69
Charles Howell III	34-35—69
Vaughn Taylor	32-37—69
Michael Bradley	35-34—69
Steve Lowery	34-35—69
Richard S. Johnson	34-35—69
Brad Faxon	35-34—69
Angel Cabrera	35-34—69
Matt Jones	36-33—69
Matt Every	36-33—69
Justin Rose	34-36—70
Woody Austin	34-36—70
Chez Reavie	35-35—70
Brett Quigley	34-36—70
Brandt Snedeker	34-36—70
Garrett Willis	34-36—70
Aron Price	34-36—70
Brendon de Jonge	35-35—70
Vance Veazey	35-35—70
Chad Campbell	34-37—71
Webb Simpson	36-35—71
Chris Stroud	35-36—71
Jason Bohn	36-35—71
Bo Van Pelt	34-37—71
Padraig Harrington	34-37—71
Roger Tambellini	36-35—71
Rory McIlroy	34-37—71
Jeev Milkha Singh	35-36—71
Chris Riley	35-36—71
Chris Couch	35-36—71
Mike Weir	35-36—71
J.B. Holmes	35-36—71
Derek Lamely	36-35—71
Steve Wheatcroft	34-37—71
Joe Ogilvie	36-36—72
Michael Letzig	36-36—72
James Nitties	36-36—72
Justin Leonard	36-36—72
Briny Baird	34-38—72
Jason Dufner	36-36—72
Chad Collins	35-37—72
Spencer Levin	36-36—72
Martin Flores	38-34—72
Greg Owen	35-37—72
James Driscoll	37-35—72
Harrison Frazar	35-37—72
Charlie Wi	33-39—72
Rickie Fowler	36-36—72
Jeff Quinney	37-36—73
Lee Janzen	38-35—73
Tim Clark	36-37—73
Jay Williamson	37-36—73
Boo Weekley	37-36—73
Rich Barcelo	36-37—73
Trevor Immelman	39-34—73
Brett Wetterich	35-38—73
John Rollins	38-35—73
Ernie Els	36-37—73
Ryan Palmer	35-38—73
Rocco Mediate	35-38—73
David Lutterus	36-37—73
Craig Bowden	36-37—73
Chris Tidland	36-37—73
Steve Marino	34-39—73
Mark Calcavecchia	32-41—73
Johnson Wagner	35-38—73
Stephen Ames	35-38—73
Mark Wilson	34-39—73
Paul Casey	32-41—73
Marc Leishman	37-37—74
John Mallinger	35-39—74
Davis Love III	35-39—74
Todd Hamilton	34-40—74
Nicholas Thompson	35-39—74
Kevin Johnson	36-38—74
Chris Wilson	37-37—74
Nick O'Hern	37-37—74
John Senden	35-39—74
Stuart Appleby	35-39—74
Sergio Garcia	34-40—74
Scott McCarron	36-38—74
Graham DeLaet	37-37—74
Jerod Turner	37-37—74
Jimmy Walker	35-40—75
David Duval	38-37—75
Troy Merritt	36-39—75
Blake Adams	34-41—75
Kevin Streelman	35-40—75
Tim Wilkinson	36-39—75
Greg Kraft	36-39—75
Andres Romero	38-37—75
Brian Davis	37-38—75
Josh Teater	37-38—75
Jeff Klauk	39-37—76
Omar Uresti	37-39—76
Ben Curtis	37-39—76
Robert Allenby	35-41—76
Brian Stuard	36-40—76
Bob Estes	38-38—76
Tim Herron	35-41—76
Greg Chalmers	36-40—76
Fran Quinn	39-37—76
D.A. Points	38-39—77
Carl Pettersson	38-39—77
Michael Allen	39-38—77
Paul Goydos	36-41—77
Mathias Gronberg	37-40—77
Andy Matthews	36-41—77
Ryan Garrity	35-42—77
John Merrick	36-42—78
Roland Thatcher	42-36—78
Mathew Goggin	40-38—78
Bill Lunde	40-38—78
Steve Flesch	40-38—78
Bill Haas	36-42—78
Jeff Overton	37-42—79
Y.E. Yang	36-43—79
Jeff Maggert	40-40—80
Perry Moss	40-41—81
Jason Day	WD

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STAAL

From Page 28

from the Tsunami Guam made the experience very memorable," Staal said.

"Shin and I raced against Markus Rogan, who I believe is from Austria, in the 100m free. He was definitely our fastest opponent. Although Rogan is a very fast and a top swimmer, he was very kind to us, wishing us the best of luck. It was a great trip and I hope I will be able to attend the Japan Open of 2011," he added.

Shin Kimura had the same events as Staal, timing in at 28.09 seconds in the 50m freestyle and 1:00.80 in the 100m freestyle.

"My times were better than last year, however I couldn't get my best time so I am a bit disappointed," said Shin Kimura, who aimed at breaking the 27-second barrier in the 50m freestyle and under a minute in the 100m freestyle.

"Shin missed his goal. He made mistakes in his turn, but these can be corrected next time. If his turn was done completely he might finish in the 58-second mark. Making the right turn is an important swimming technique. We will work on it for the Micro Games," the older Kimura said.

DCCA

From Page 28

isting standards or specifications and the department will continue to have open door policy to prioritize meeting with the said local baseball organization in addressing their concerns," Faisao added.

SLLB made a request to DCCA through the Division of Sports and Recreation to repair the Tan Ko ballfield, as the ground is very hard with a lot of manufactured sand (pebbles/rocks). The request was made last week, but was not granted, forcing cancellation of games at the Tan Ko ballfield.

SLLB president said Tony Rogolifoi said wrong sand was used in the ballfield.

"They should combined beach sand and regular soil to soften up the field. SLLB players are having a hard time running the field because of the manufactured sand. It's not good for their safety," Rogolifoi said.

Despite the baseball organization's claims, DCCA stressed the department is on the right side and will just respect SLLB's opinion.

"Local major baseball organizations are entitled to their own opinion and as noted, no local sports organizations (amateur/professional leagues) shall state, imply or otherwise suggest that the Department (DCCA-DS&R) endorses or supports views of his or her organization," Faisao said.

"The Department will progress forward in an accountable and transparent mode in effectuating to meet its goals and objectives for its program needs that are provided in any existing CNMI statutes which conferred the authority to DCCA-DS&R to develop and administer programs relating to team and individual sports, recreational activities, and physical fitness for youth and adults, including senior citizens and persons with mental or physical disabilities," the secretary added in his statement.

Meanwhile, after its request for repair was denied, SLLB was scheduled to dig up the big field's running paths and replace it with the right type of dirt yesterday.

SLLB officials and its volunteers had already made minor repairs and cleaning at the Tan Ko and Miguel "Tan Ge" ballfields early last month for the opening of the 2010 season. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

PRIZES

From Page 28

give prizes that can be used by winners of all ages, such as the netbook and the Ipod. The life-sized cardboard cutout is one of the more unique prizes ever offered in the region," Arriola said.

"Prior to the NMASA Banquet next year for the 2010 awardees, we will take studio shots of each athlete. NMASA will then select the winner for the year, and let us know. We'll get the life-size cutout printed and then it'll be unveiled at the banquet along with the winner. It will be a very memorable occasion for the winners and their family," Arriola added.

Athletes eligible for the two awards will be the monthly winners in the 2010 season. Various sports federations nominate student awardees and at NMASA's monthly meeting, NMASA members review each nominees' achievements and vote for the deserving winners.

Winners of monthly awards will receive medals, $20 reloadable gift card from Shirley's Coffee Shop, and $50 gift certificate from Modern Stationary.

So far, only two student athletes have gained nomination for the 2010 NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year awards: tennis' Mikayla Lopez and bowling's Raphael Zapanta.

Lopez and Zapanta were named top student athletes for January after showing impressive performance in the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge and the 2009 SBA/Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes tournament, respectively. Lopez won three divisions in the netfest, while Zapanta took the title in the year-ending event.

Arriola said TSL is encouraging Lopez, Zapanta, and all student athletes to always aim high whether in sports or in school.

"The Tan Siu Lin Foundation would like to commend all our student athletes throughout the region. We urge you to excel in your academic, athletic and personal lives," Arriola said.

JAPAN

From Page 28

tionnaire about their golf preferences. Free eco-bags sponsored by Delta Airlines attracted individuals to the booth. Participants in the questionnaire survey also were eligible for a raffle drawing for gifts from Fiesta Resort & Spa, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Mariana Resort & Spa, Saipan Country Club, and Aqua Resort Club Saipan.

"The Japan Golf Fair serves as a venue for golf products and golf destination promotions, so it's a strategic opportunity to entice Japanese golfers with the beauty, the proximity, and the high quality of our courses," said MVA Managing Director Perry Tenorio.

Last month 16 percent (3,394) of visitors to Saipan, Tinian and Rota indicated golf as one of their travel plans while in the islands. Compared to January 2009, the number of Korea visitors coming to the islands to play golf has tripled to 21 percent of all Korean visitors.

Golf courses in the Northern Marianas include seven on the island of Saipan and one on Rota, and there are several driving ranges to tune up the game before playing:

■ **Kingfisher Golf Links** (18 holes)—Strong elevation changes and several blind holes make this course designed by Graham Marshall challenging, yet playable. Dramatic ocean views abound from both upland and cliff line holes. A first-class restaurant/bar facility, a pair of teahouses overlooking the sea, and a pro shop round out the amenities of this course.

■ **Laolao Bay Golf Resort** (two 18 holes)—Two courses designed by Greg Norman offer spectacular ocean views. The 6,334-yard east course requires more accurate play, with narrower fairways and four consecutive cliff line holes. The 6,805 west course offers more expansive fairways but still challenges with blind holes and over water shots. A striking new clubhouse with a large pro shop and a restaurant awaits players and shoppers.

■ **Coral Ocean Point Resort** (18 holes)—This 7,014-yard course designed by Larry Nelson is highlighted by ocean winds and two tees over the reef-fringed Tinian channel. A pro shop beckons, and a small restaurant at the hotel and a snack shack on the course keep golfers well fed.

■ **Marianas Country Club** (18 holes and 9 holes)—This course winds around a plateau at 300 feet above sea level and offers a bird's eye view of the shining Philippine Sea and the Saipan lagoon. While course is open, challenging elevation changes, a few very narrow fairways, and strategically placed flame trees and swaying palms balance more conventional holes and keep players engaged. A small, 9-hole par 3 course located near the hotel can be used as a warm-up, for practice, or to introduce new golfers to the game. A gift shop and a clubhouse-turn-restaurant complement this course.

■ **Saipan Country Club** (nine holes)—Nine holes remain of the original short, narrow 18 hole course built for the U.S. Navy in the 1960s. This executive course provides a nice tune-up for other full-length courses. Carts are not allowed so carrying or pulling your clubs on a hand cart is mandatory.

■ **Rota Resort & Country Club** (18 holes)—The lone course on the island of Rota measures 7.093 yards and is framed by endless ocean views and a lush jungle background punctuated by small lakes, interesting rock formations, and an occasional exotic bird. Well-groomed fairways and undulating greens offer a challenge to both low and high handicappers.

Thousands of consumers depend on the information they gather at the fair for making plans to play the game at new locations, either for business or recreation. The MVA's position at this annual fair ensures the high-end golfing visitor has ample information to choose the Saipan or Rota golf destination. ***(PR)***

Wade gets 27, Heat hold off Lakers in OT

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Jets reach agreement with Chargers for Cromartie

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Staal hits target in Japan Open

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Kai Staal accomplished his mission in the Japan Open 2010 held last weekend at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku.

Staal competed in the 50m freestyle of the event also dubbed as the 51st Japan Swimming Championships and timed in at 24.71 seconds, reaching his and coach Hiro Kimura's target of finishing the sprint race in less than 25 seconds. In the 100m freestyle, Staal also met his goal when he completed the race under the 55-second mark, clocking in at 54.57 seconds.

Both times were better than the CNMI record in the same events, but can't be considered new marks, as the Japan tournament was a short course or done in a 25-meter pool. CNMI records are only for long course or 50-meter pool.

Though Staal's times can't be considered CNMI records, Kimura was satisfied with his ward's performance in Japan.

"The pool in Japan Open was a short course and the competition pool in Micro Games is a short course, too. Swimming in Japan was a good experience for CNMI swimmers going to the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau," Kimura said.

It was Staal's first time to join the Japan Open and he had one for keeps.

"The Japan Open was definitely a memorable trip. I had such a great time swimming with fast athletes in a fast pool, and just being in Japan, visiting Japanese markets, meeting top swimmers, such as Darren Thompson from South Africa, and being with good friends

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan's Kai Staal, left, and Shin Kimura pose for a group photo at the Tokyo Tatsumi International Swimming Center in Tatsumi, Koto-ku, which hosted the Japan Open 2010 last weekend.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, 2010 NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Female and Male Student Athlete of the Month (January) Mikayla Lopez and Raphael Zapanta, and TSL Foundation manager Ed Arriola pose for a group photo during the launching of the foundation's partnership with NMASA last month at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Prizes galore for top student-athletes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The first-ever recipients of the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Male and Female Student Athlete of the Year award will have both memories and prizes to treasure, following TSL Foundation's announcement of rewards awaiting winners of the coveted awards.

Foundation manager Ed Arriola said each winner will receive a new netbook, Ipod shuffle, a cardboard and life-size cutout photo of the athlete, and various apparel and clothing.

"Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan came up with the whole concept of the program, and he really wanted the Foundation to

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DCCA: Ballfields meet standards

Division of Sports and Recreation's Joe Mettao helps Saipan Little League Baseball officials and volunteers fix the mound at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs reiterated the ballfields at the Oleai Sports Complex, particularly the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield are in good and playable condition.

"Please note that the baseball field is not in a deplorable stage or unplayable condition as claimed by the local major baseball organization. For your information, the current and present setting does meet the standards for training and for amateur or professional league specifications," DCCA secretary Melvin Faisao said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday.

"The baseball organization claims are irrelevant to the DCCA and Division of Sports and Recreation's ex-

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Marianas Visitors Authority took part in the Japan Golf Fair 2010 held in Tokyo last Feb. 19-21.

Japan Golf Fair puts NMI courses at the fore

The Marianas Visitors Authority reached out to over 50,000 golf enthusiasts in Japan on Feb. 19-21 at the Japan Golf Fair 2010 held in Tokyo.

The event, held at Big Site Tokyo, attracted over 31,000 golfers, 18,000 golf trade representatives, and 500 media representatives.

The MVA distributed information about the Northern Mariana Islands' golf courses and engaged attendees with a ques-

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